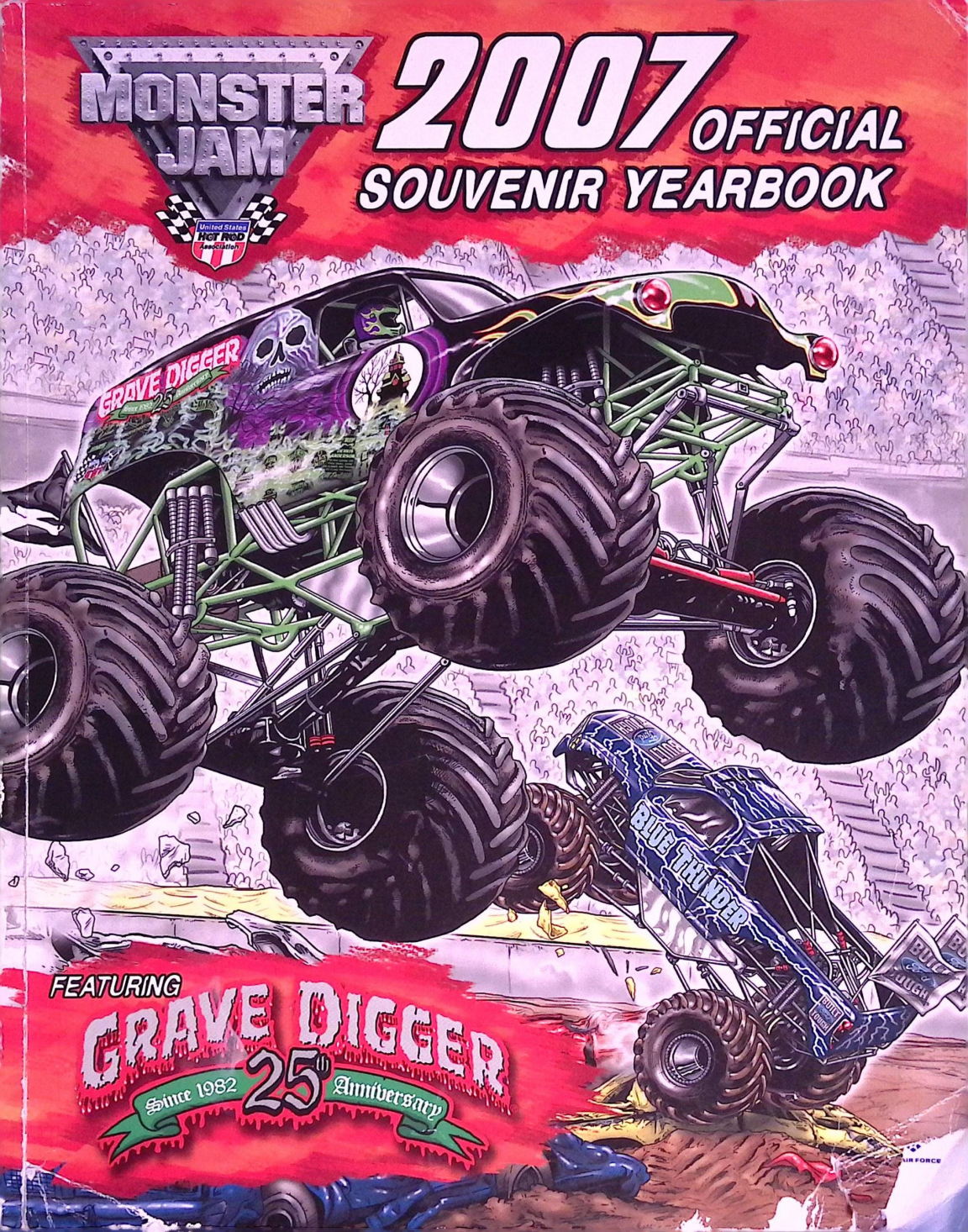
# MONSTER JAM

# 2007 OFFICIAL SOUVENIR YEARBOOK

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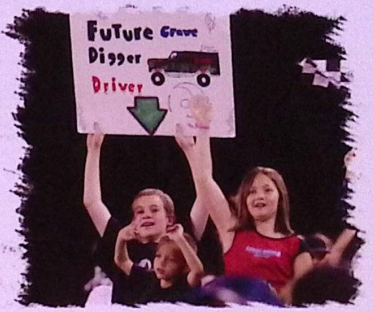
# WELCOME TO THE SHOW



Yes folks, the time has finally come; Monster Jam is back, and it's better than ever. Whether we've been coming to your town for years, or if this is our first time here (thanks for having us!), we promise that this will be a day that you will talk about in the weeks and months to come.

Every year we look for the best and baddest monster trucks to bring you an exciting show and this year is no exception. Stadium, arena, fairgrounds, in North America and all over the world, it doesn't matter; we've assembled an all-star cast of man and machine to make sure that you go home happy.

2007 is also special as we help an old friend celebrate 25 years in the monster truck business. In 1982, Dennis Anderson brought the legend of Grave Digger to life and the sports entertainment world has never been the same. Back in '82, while some of us were listening to the new *Thriller* album from Michael Jackson, or watching the St. Louis Cardinals win their last World Series (before this past summer) and saw *Cats* open on Broadway, Dennis was painting "Grave Digger" on the side of an old red primer-coated pickup truck in preparation for a mud bog competition. Little did any of us know that 25 years later, literally millions of people would see him crush cars, get huge air and inspire dozens of others to build their own monster trucks and give us the sport that we have today. Starting on page 28, we take you back through the history of Grave Digger in photos and Dennis' own words.

For more Monster Jam action, check your local listings for showings of Monster Jam on SPEED. The program features action and highlights from many of the shows from across the nation. If you need information about an upcoming event, or want to see recaps from other events, MonsterJamOnline.com is your one-stop destination for anything that you could want to know about monster trucks. While there, look for details on various contests, like the hugely successful Monsters on Main Street. You can read all about the 2006 event on pages 58-60. And of course, don't forget about the Monster Jam World Finals event, returning to Las Vegas in March 2007. Will seven-time champion Tom Meents return to the podium, or will a dark horse emerge to take the title?

When the lights go down and the music begins, settle in to your seat and get ready for one of the most exciting events you will see all year. On behalf of everyone at Monster Jam...Welcome to the Show.

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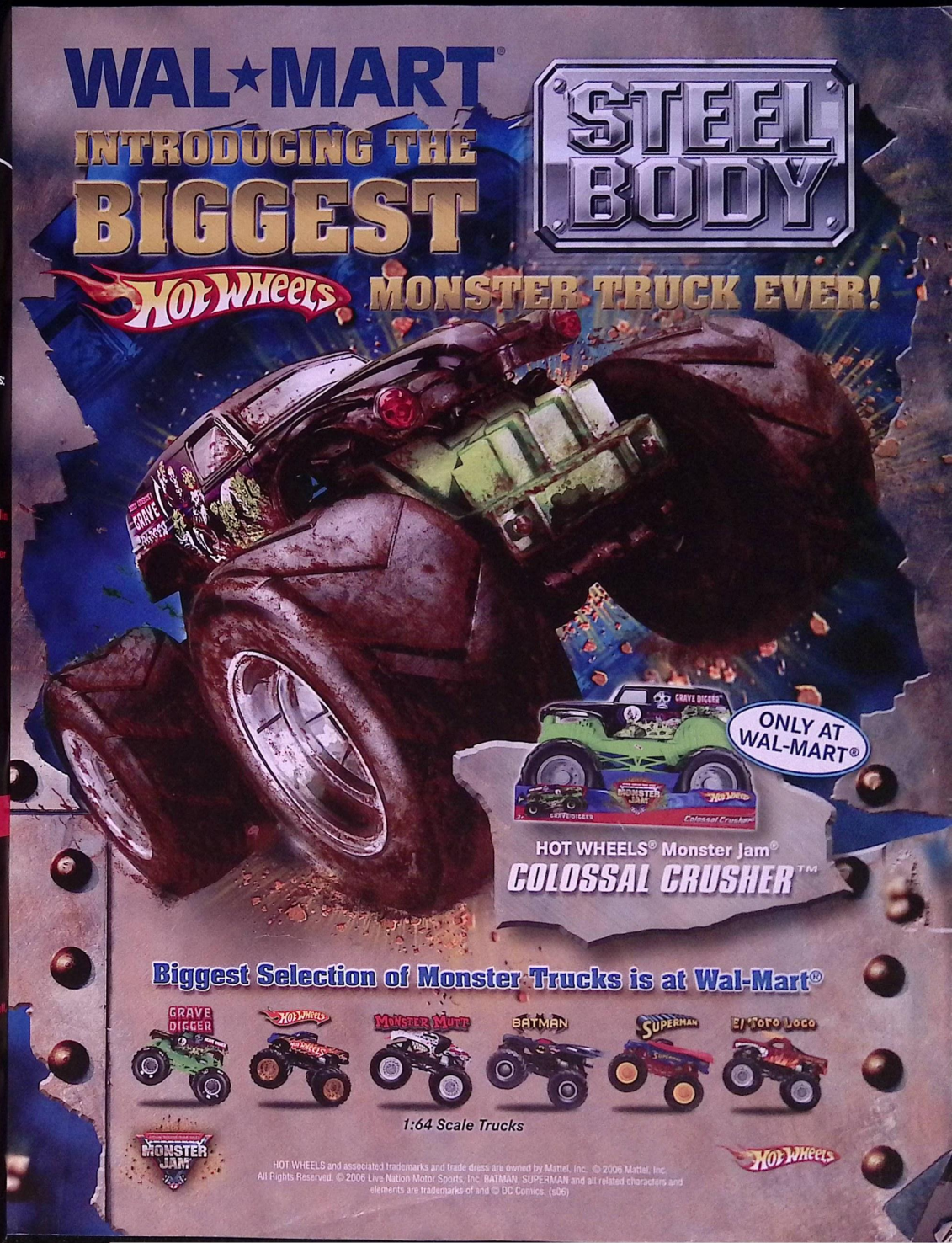

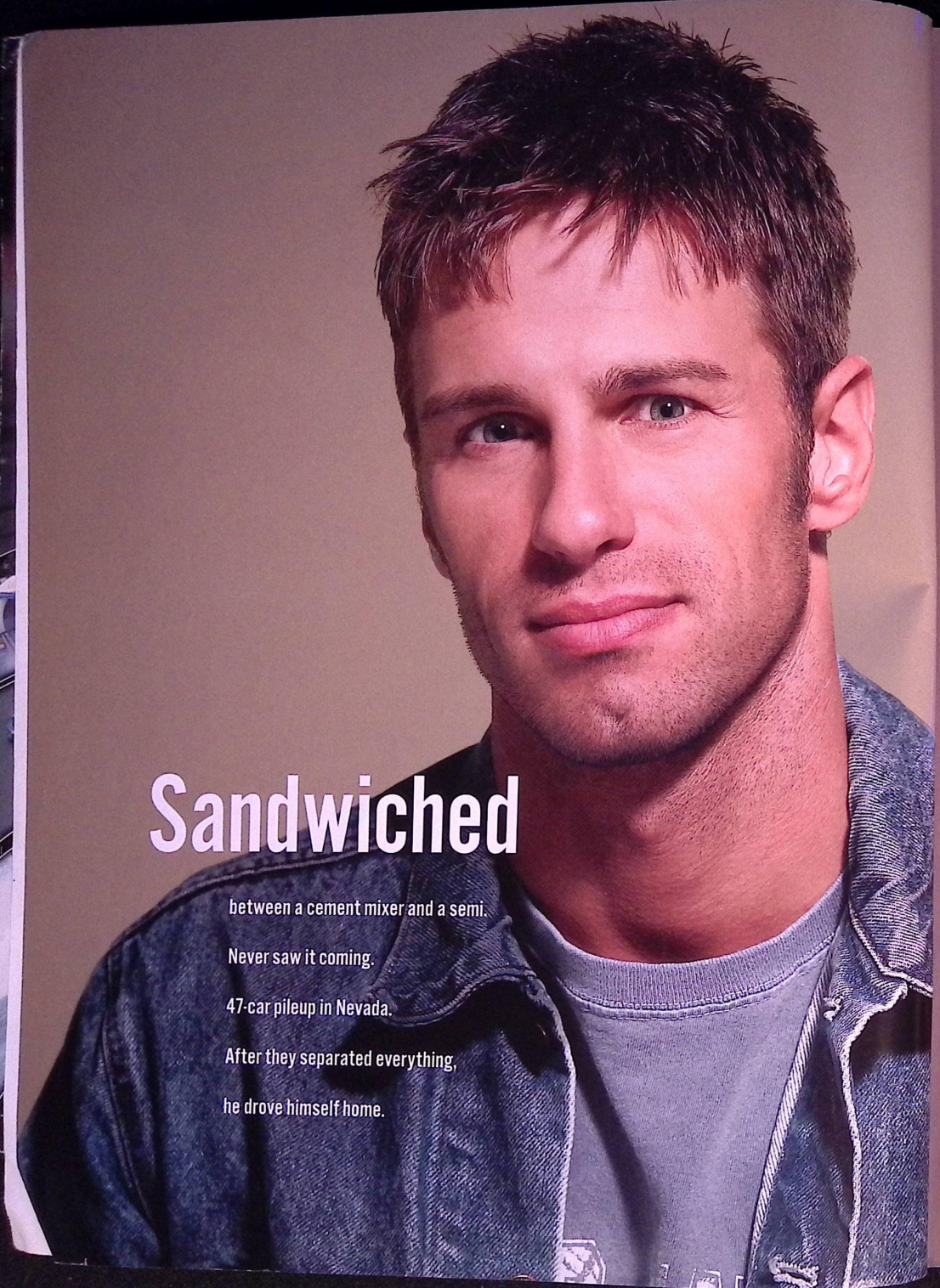


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Feb 17 Memphis, TN FedEx Forum
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Feb 23-24 Hidalgo, TX Dodge Arena
Feb 24 Sacramento, CA ARCO Arena
Feb 24 Greensboro, NC Greensboro Coliseum
Mar 3 Biloxi, MS Mississippi Coast Coliseum
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The Monster Jam World Finals in Las Vegas just keeps getting bigger and better every year. The 2006 event raised the stakes even higher when the field of competitors grew to an amazing 24 trucks!

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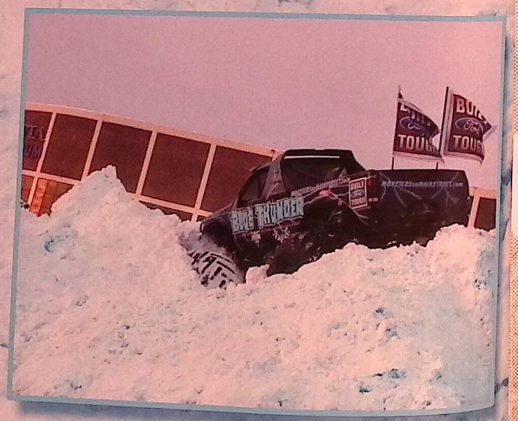




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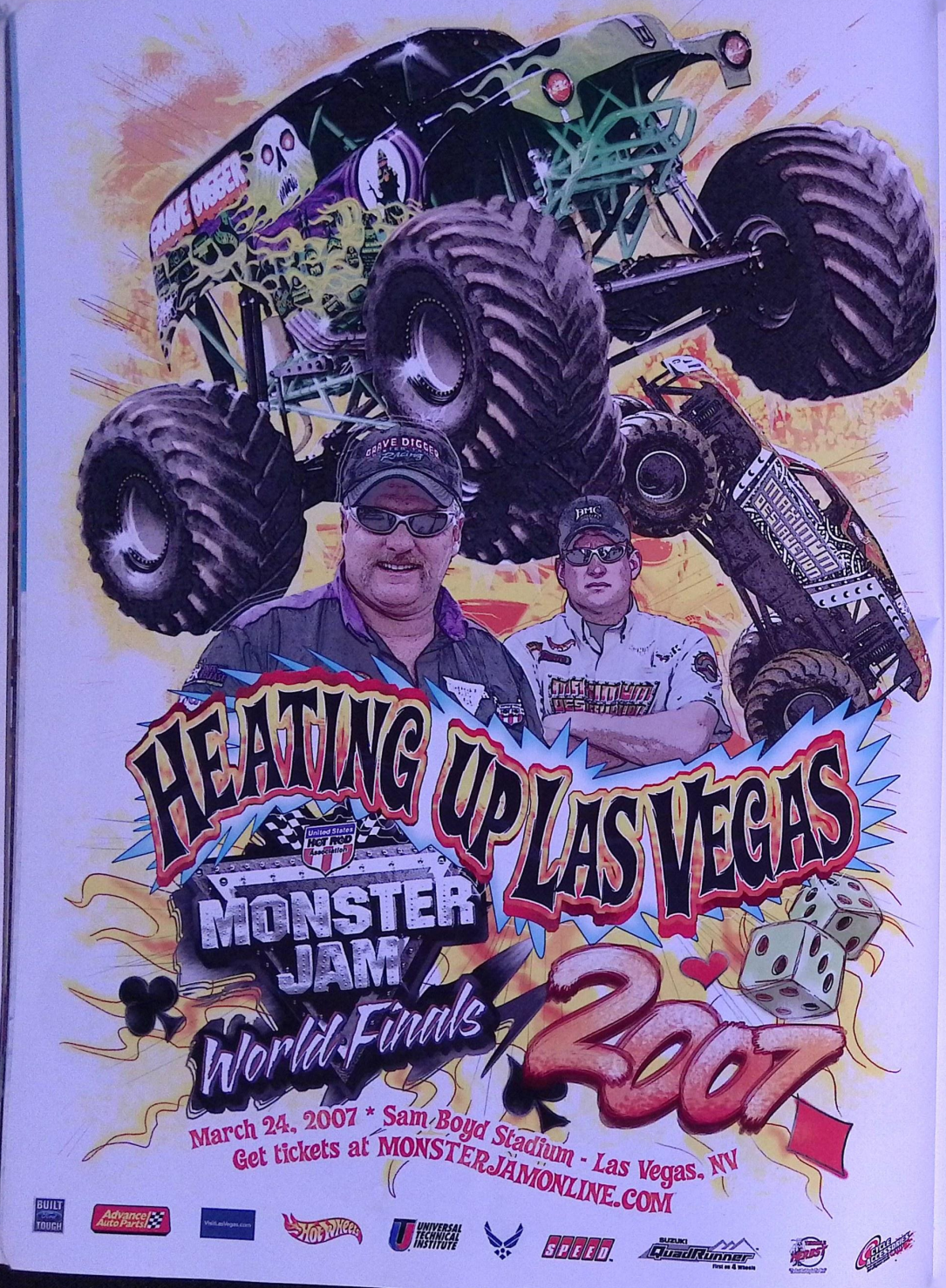
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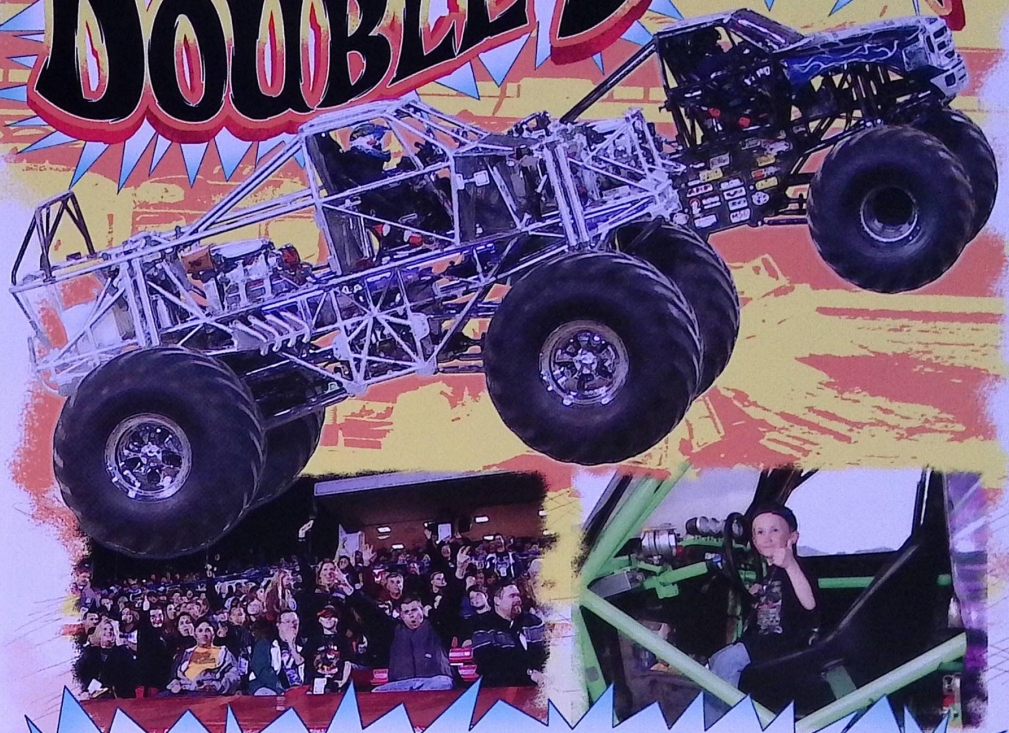

A weekend in Las Vegas wouldn't be the same if you didn't do it as a VIP. The Friday Double Down Experience gives a limited number of Monster Jam fans the Ultimate VIP Experience to the Monster Jam World Finals. In addition to the best seats in the house for the Saturday main event, Double Down fans have exclusive access to the Friday night qualifying, BBQ, exclusive apparel, and the first chance to get autographs from all of the drivers. Along with these great perks, Double Down fans can also participate in activities including the Design-A-Sign, Grave Digger photo opportunity, Monster Truck body signing, and more! To be a part of this once in a lifetime experience, log on to MonsterJamOnline.com for purchase information.

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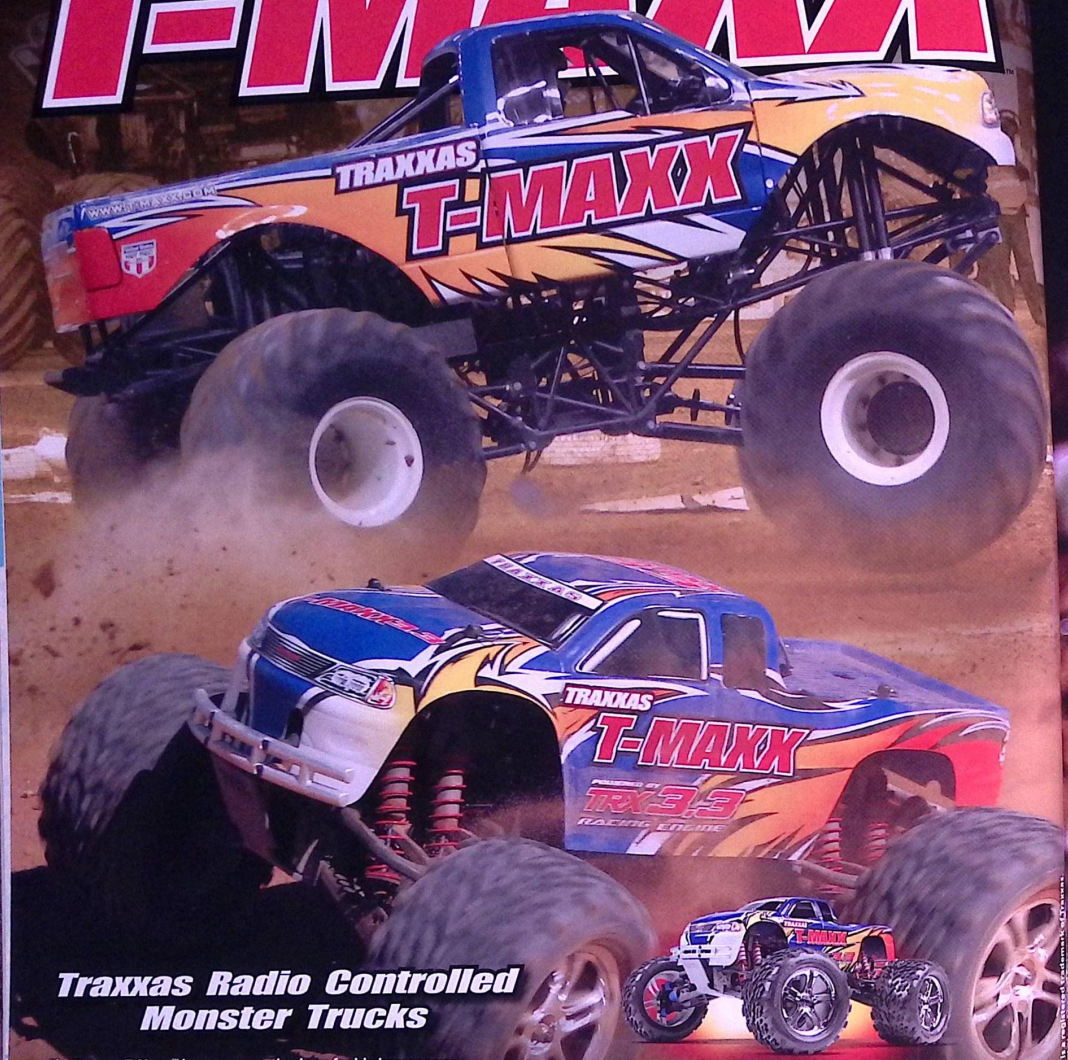
How would you like to have "Breakfast with the Champions" at the 2007 Monster Jam World Finals? Sign up now at MonsterJamOnline.com to win a Grand Prize package of airfare, hotel accommodations, and event tickets to the 2007 Monster Jam World Finals including Double Down packages for you plus a guest. In addition to the special trip to Las Vegas, you'll be treated to an exclusive, intimate breakfast with select past Monster Jam World Finals Champions. It will be the experience of a lifetime!

# T-MAXX

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# The 2006 Scotty Awards

Before we get ready to enjoy another incredible season of Monster Jam thrills and excitement, it's time to reflect back on the sport's most spectacular 2006 moments with one announcer/broadcaster's personal salute to the year's best. I've come to call these honors the "Scotty Awards," my choices for the best performances I witnessed at live Monster Jam events and on SPEED last season. So, let's honor the 2006 Scotty Award winners:

### DRIVER OF THE YEAR – RACING

**Winner:** DENNIS ANDERSON – For the third straight year my pick for this award is the seemingly ageless icon, although this time the choice was tougher than ever. Tipping the scale in Anderson's favor was his march to a second Monster Jam World Finals Racing Championship in the last three years, and the Grave Digger creator is a good bet to be a top contender again as he enters his 25th year in the sport.

**Runner-up:** LINSEY WEENK – At the start of the season Weenk (in Iron Outlaw) was as dominant as any driver I've witnessed. With so much parity in Monster Jam and with so many teams rolling great, state-of-the-art equipment off their haulers each week, Weenk's 21-race winning streak is one of the most amazing runs I've ever seen. A little lull in the middle of the year and a disappointing night at the Monster Jam World Finals not withstanding, this was an incredible season for one of the most talented drivers to enter the business in years. And here's the scary part for the competition: he's only going to get better and better.

### DRIVER OF THE YEAR - FREESTYLE

**Winner:** TOM MEENTS – The "King of Air" added a record extending seventh World Championship to his unequalled resume in 2006, capping off another season where Meents did things driving Maximum Destruction that seemed to defy the laws of science. Meents won a majority of the stadium freestyle events he entered and topped it off with the Monster Jam World Finals Freestyle Championship to get this award.

**Runner-up:** (tie) THE ANDERSONS (Dennis & Adam) – In 2006 Dennis Anderson had to deal with a new contender capable of upsetting him in freestyle each week: his son. Adam Anderson shocked many viewers by winning a pair of major stadium freestyle events, with both his dad and Meents in the field each time. He's so good at such a young age there is no telling how far Adam's career will sky rocket. But for now he knows he has to bring his absolute best any time his father is in the field. Both Anderson's had tremendous success in 2006 and are poised to do the same in '07. While Dad's skills haven't faded a bit, the kid is just getting started.

### TEAM OF THE YEAR – RACING

**Winner:** 2EXTREME RACING – The only thing this team did not accomplish in '06 was win that elusive Monster Jam World Finals Racing Championship. Jimmy Creten and Bounty Hunter again finished in the runner-up spot at the Monster Jam World Finals, losing to Anderson and Grave Digger in the greatest final race in history. The narrow loss takes nothing away from how fantastic the Bounty Hunter was throughout the year. Then when you add in Weenk's incredible season in Iron Outlaw, it's clear that 2 Extreme earned the award as the best racing team of the year.

**Runner-up:** TEAM GRAVE DIGGER – Led by Dennis Anderson, Team Grave Digger is still, top to bottom, the deepest pool of driving talent ever assembled. Along with Anderson's victories, add in triumphs by the likes of Pablo Huffaker, Randy Brown, Gary Porter, Chad Tingler, Charlie Pauken, and Rod Schmidt, and it's easy to see why this is the winningest team in the history of Monster Jam.

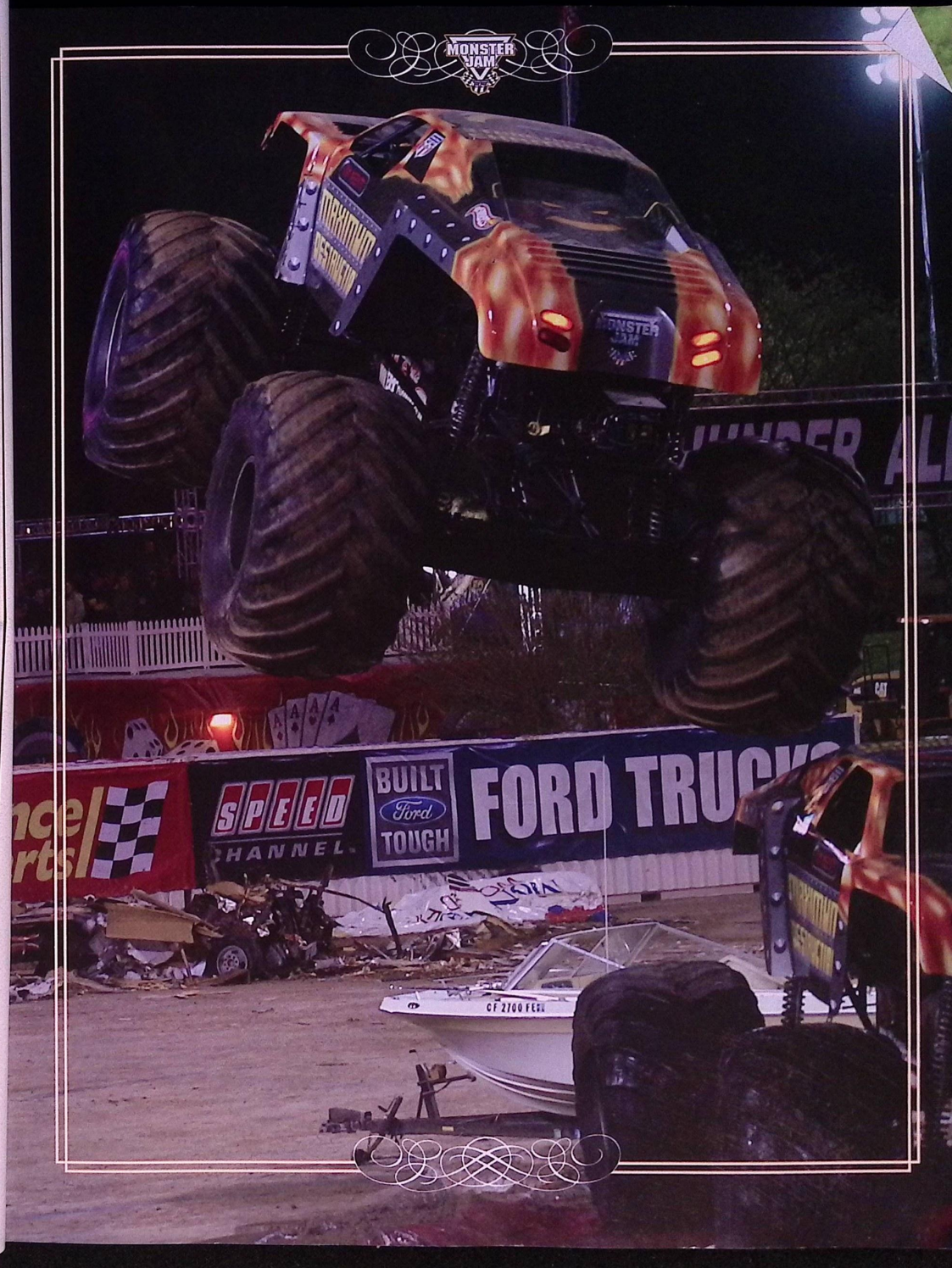
### TEAM OF THE YEAR – FREESTYLE

**Winner:** TEAM MEENTS - The return of Neil Elliot to Meents' team solidified their grip on this award. When Maximum Destruction is on the track, the only way to tell who is driving is to watch to see who takes off the helmet. Meents and Elliot totally commit themselves and their equipment to giving Monster Jam fans the most incredible performance they've ever seen every time out. Add to the Max-D brilliance a nice mix of veterans and newcomers, led by Guy Wood, and you have a unit that's capable of setting new freestyle standards each time they roll onto the track.

**Runner-up:** "TEAM SCREAM" – "Team Scream" is our unofficial nickname for two of the wildest characters in the industry in tribute to their volume-shattering TV interviews, and no pair of drivers delivers more spectacular moments week in and week out than Jim Koehler in Avenger and Chris Bergeron in Brutus. Each driver brings the fans to their feet as soon as the light turns green and leaves everything on the track. They may not have as many

*By Scott Douglass*





wins as they'd like to, but that's only because they run the equipment so hard from the opening bell that they often leave time on the clock, which hurts their overall scores. At any given moment, however, both Avenger and Brutus are capable of creating another memorable "WOW" moment for Monster Jam fans.

### CRASH OF THE YEAR

**Winner:** JIM KOEHLER IN AVENGER, Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas (pictured above) –When Jim Koehler launched his special chromed Avenger into the air over the huge freestyle stack at the Monster Jam World Finals, you could literally hear a collective gasp from the sold-out crowd. The '57 Chevy actually began to roll over in mid air, then plummeted to the floor and crashed hard on its side. A fired-up, and thankfully uninjured, Koehler then topped it off by diving in to the red colored water that served as the "lava" for the spewing volcano on the track, and the former Freestyle World Champion received a standing ovation again. This crash is so in a league of its own that there is no runner-up in this category this year.

### HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE AWARD

**Winner:** STEVE REYNOLDS IN COWBOY WINS RACING, Citrus Bowl, Orlando – A new award this year, I have to tip the hat to the drivers who stood up to the extra pressure and put on championship performances in front of their hometown family and friends. Steve Reynolds, not a Florida native, had even more pressure on him when he jumped into the Cowboy truck owned by Floridian Scott Hartsock and delivered a huge televised racing victory in the city where Hartsock had driven Gunslinger to a big time win over Grave Digger in the finale a year earlier.
**Runner-up:** DAVID SMITH IN KING KRUNCH WINS FREESTYLE, Reliant Stadium, Houston – David Smith has become one of the most consistent freestylers in the world, as evidenced by back to back finishes near the top of the leader board at the Monster Jam World Finals. But in front of his hometown crowd Smith went for broke, holding nothing back, and beat all of the top superstars in the sport for one of the biggest wins of his career.

### UPSET OF THE YEAR

**Winner:** ADAM ANDERSON IN THE DRIVE WINS FREESTYLE, Ford Field, Detroit (pictured below) – We have expected big things from Dennis' oldest son from the first time he strapped in to a monster truck, but very few expected he'd have a chance to actually come in first place in a huge stadium event, on television, against an all-star line-up that included not only his father, but Tom Meents as well, this early in his career. Adam took a back seat to none of the big names in the first ever Monster Jam event at this phenomenal new venue, and deservedly walked on stage as the freestyle winner with his proud papa right there to share in the celebration.
**Runner-up:** PAUL COHEN IN PASTRANA 199 WINS FREESTYLE, Metrodome, Minneapolis – While Cohen has been a player in whatever truck he has driven, no one could have seen this one coming. Behind the wheel of the

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Pastrana 199 truck, Cohen turned in the freestyle performance of his career and was a no doubt winner over a stacked field in the Metrodome.

### BREAKTHROUGH WIN OF THE YEAR

**Winner (tie):** CARL VAN HORN IN T-MAXX WINS RACING, DAVID SMITH IN KING KRUNCH WINS FREESTYLE, Reliant Stadium, Houston – Very simply, this category reflects the accomplishment of a driver and team that, while their win is considered an upset, it's not a shock because we've been waiting for them to breakthrough with a win on SPEED. Both honorees here had their breakthrough wins on the same night at Reliant Stadium in Houston. Carl Van Horn, just a few weeks after joining the Traxxas T-Maxx team, finally got the truck dialed in to his liking and put everything together on the head-to-head course, knocking off Chad Fortune and Superman in the racing finals. In freestyle, as noted before, Smith rose to the occasion on his home turf and beat a field of former World Champions with a brilliant, high energy freestyle performance.

### FREESTYLE PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR

**Winner:** TOM MEENTS, MAXIMUM DESTRUCTION, Edward Jones Dome, St. Louis – For the second straight year my choice as the best freestyle was performed on the massive Edward Jones Dome floor by Meents in Max-D. This huge facility allows Meents to turn the wick up even higher on a floor laden with huge obstacles. Annually, he gets some of the greatest air we ever see when he hits the Gateway city. Meents also earned creativity points here when he had teammate Guy Wood bring the Bob & Tom Ford onto the track to serve as another obstacle that Maximum Destruction soared over, and later in the season he did it again, leaping over Neil Elliot's machine during his championship run in Las Vegas.

**Runner-up:** DENNIS ANDERSON, GRAVE DIGGER, Silverdome, Pontiac, MI – Considering not just the history of this storied facility, but the history of Grave Digger in the Silverdome, you just knew Dennis would pull out all the stops to win the final freestyle ever in that building. Start to finish, a classic Digger performance and a perfect way to close the Silverdome. It's absolutely fitting that the man who invented freestyle won the final competition on a floor that has seen many of the greatest freestyle performances ever witnessed.

### FREESTYLE MOVE OF THE YEAR

**Winner:** PAUL COHEN, PASTRANA 199, Metrodome, Minneapolis (pictured below) – We've raved on SPEED for years about how combination moves raise your freestyle score. This triple combination from Cohen probably won him the televised Metrodome event over the best freestylers in the game. First a huge leap over a double van stack, non-stop into a slap wheelie that he rode the length of the floor, then crashing the Pastrana 199 machine through a mobile home set at the end of the track. Truly a phenomenal combo.

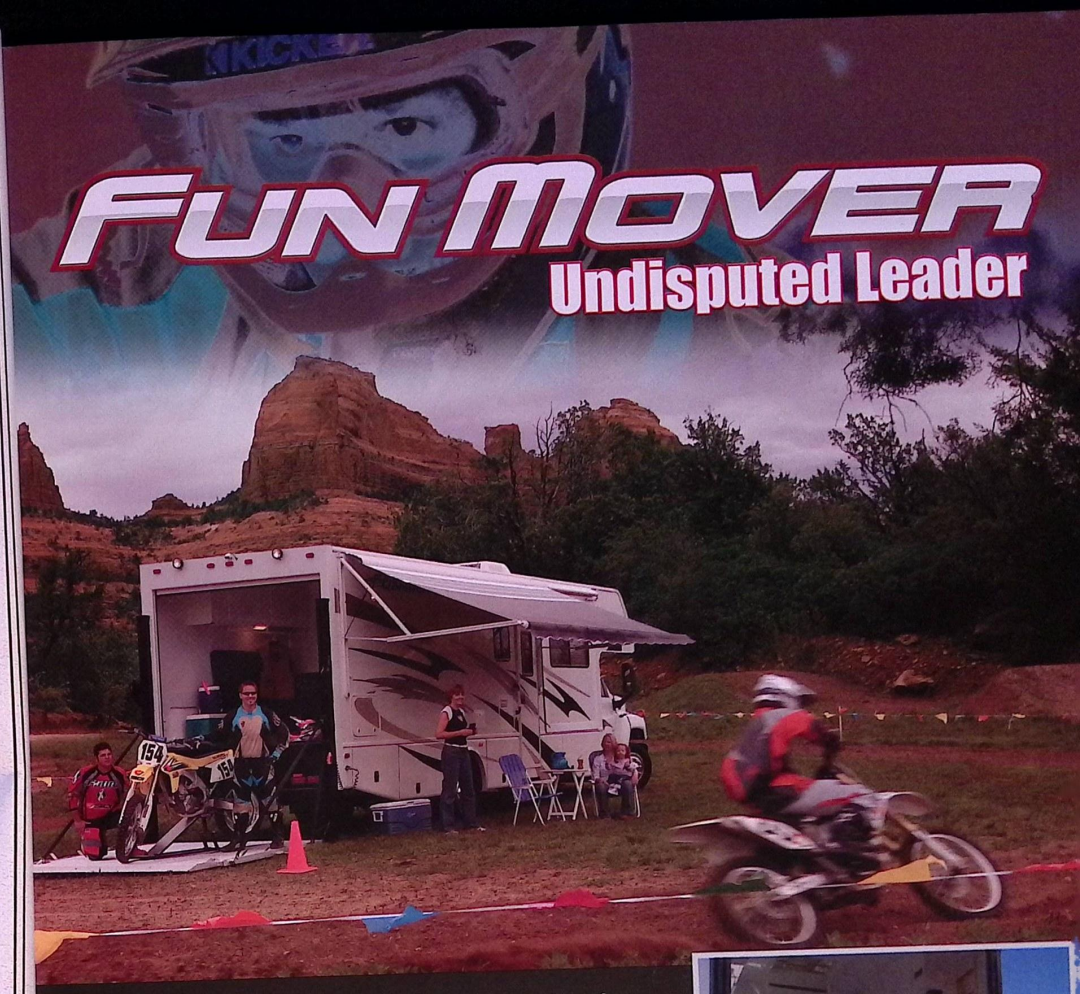
**Runner-up:** TOM MEENTS, MAXIMUM DESTRUCTION, Olympic Stadium, Montreal – I wasn't sure if this should be included in the Crash of the Year category instead, but I'm honoring it here because once the truck flipped and scooted across the concrete portion of the Canadian floor, it seemed for the longest time like Meents was actually driving the truck on its side, literally on the rims. All I know is that I've never seen a move quite like it, and when you're talking about a Max-D freestyle, that's saying something.

### RISING STAR AWARD

**Winner:** LINSEY WEENK – He started the season pretty much as an unknown, made his impressions quickly, and finished the year as the biggest new threat to the sport's established superstars to emerge in several years. Make no mistake about it, Linsey is a special driving talent and a potential future World Racing Champion.

**Runner-up:** ADAM ANDERSON – The sky's the limit for

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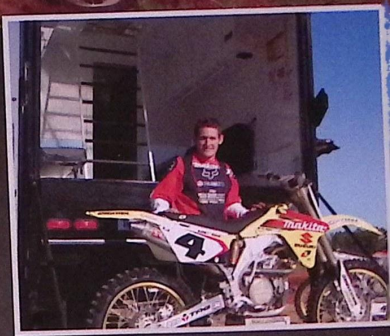

Ricky Carmichael, 15 Time AMA National Supercross & Motocross Champion

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maybe the youngest driver we have ever seen make a major impact on Monster Jam. The first time we saw him compete against the big boys I was most amazed at his poise. He wasn't intimidated in the least. Not by his legendary father or by his Dad's biggest rival either. There is just no telling how many records he's going to set, how many world titles he's going to win, and to what new levels he will help take the sport.

**MOST IMPROVED DRIVER**

**Winner:** CHAD TINGLER – Here's a driver who has paid his dues, gets tremendous respect from the other competitors, and seems to elevate his game with every new opportunity. Don't be surprised to see Tingler grab one of those breakthrough wins sometime soon.

**Runner-up:** ALEX BLACKWELL – A dedicated driver who will jump into any truck, any time and be successful, Blackwell has been especially impressive during his opportunities to perform on the Monster Jam Europe tour. Look for Alex to continue to rise up the sport's ladder in 2007 and beyond.

**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

**Winner:** MARC McDONALD (pictured right) – Get used to hearing this name at major Monster Jam events. He capped off a great first winter season by making it to the quarterfinals of the racing bracket at the Monster Jam World Finals, being eliminated from that event by no less than eventual title winner, Dennis Anderson in Grave Digger. One thing that stands out to me about McDonald is that he just appears to be a natural racer. When Chad Fortune was injured McDonald jumped into Superman for the first time ever and raced that truck into the final four at Ford Field in Detroit. I think McDonald is going to win a slew of races in the coming years.

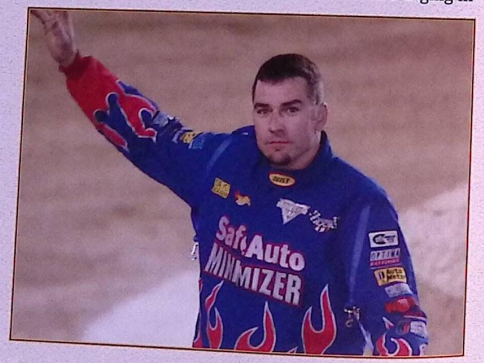
**Runner-up:** DERIC EVANS – Another second-generation racer, Dan and Lorrie's son has been around the sport his entire life and finally got an opportunity to compete this season. Studious, hard working, and talented, watch for big things for many years to come from Deric.

**BEST NEW TRUCK**

**Winner:** *BATMAN* (pictured above) – The first time it rolled onto the track, this machine made everyone sit up and take notice. Jason Childress proved this truck was for real when he drove *BATMAN* to victory over Iron Outlaw to snap Linsey Weenk's 21-race win streak. Dan Evans then jumped into the driver's seat and showed just how spectacular *BATMAN* can be with several impressive performances during the Monster Jam Europe tour.

**COMEBACK OF THE YEAR**

**Winner:** NEIL ELLIOT – Ken Stout and I have talked often on SPEED about how talented Neil is, and it was a delight to see him return to the sport this season. One of my favorite moments of the season was in Las Vegas when Tom told an unsuspecting Neil to stay in Max-D and join Charlie Pauken, taking over at Dennis Anderson's urging in






If you haven't experienced the thrill of Monster Trucks...
you obviously don't know Jack!
Bar's Leaks and Rislone congratulate Jack Koberna on 25 years of competition.
It's been a wild ride!
See the entire line of Bar's Leaks and Rislone repair and performance additives at your favorite auto parts retailer.
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Grave Digger, for the final encore freestyle at the Monster Jam World Finals. Both deserving team players showed why they have the respect of their peers with a duet of freestyles that made sure the event ended with every fan on their feet.

**Runner-up:** GARY WIGGINS – Anyone who has been around monster trucks since the beginning had to smile to see the driver who made Mopar Magic a real crowd favorite in the 80's and 90's return to the sport after a lengthy hiatus. Wiggins went all out every time he hopped in Stone Crusher and here's hoping we see one of the original Carolina gang continue to compete for several more seasons.

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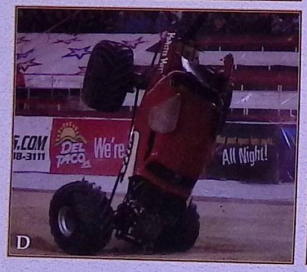
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## EVENT OF THE YEAR

**Indoor Winner:** SILVERDOME, PONTIAC, MI – One of the most memorable nights in the history of the sport came as Monster Jam ended more than two decades of thrills in the suburban Detroit dome with one final event that sold out every seat in the spacious facility. The USHRA paid some of the most loyal fans in the business the ultimate compliment by ending with a World Finals-caliber twenty-truck field that included the best drivers in the annals of Monster Jam. Interestingly, the racing event was won by one of the sport's newest superstars, Linsey Weenk in Iron Outlaw. In freestyle though, to no one's surprise, Anderson gave his fans one more Silverdome performance to remember (as noted above in the Freestyle Performance of the Year category) and came home the winner.

**Outdoor Winner (other than Las Vegas):** RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM, TAMPA, FL – The amazing Florida fans once again sold out this tradition-rich event well in advance, and with Anderson and Meents heading an all-star line-up, the fans got everything they wanted and tons more, including a Maximum Destruction win in racing and the previously mentioned Grave Digger victory in freestyle. It was a night full of highlights. With the exception of the Monster Jam World Finals in Las Vegas, this was the top outdoor event of the year.

So there you have it, my annual picks as the year's best. Now let's enjoy all of the superstars making even more incredible memories and taking the sport to previously unseen heights in this new season of Monster Jam.

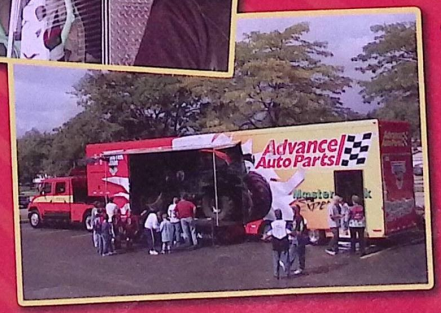
## SAVE OF THE YEAR

**Winner:** CHARLIE PAUKEN, MONSTER MUTT, Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas –Pauken performed at World Championship level to finish third against the world's best, and many people thought he should have finished even higher. The most spectacular moment came in a nose diving pirouette that somehow saw Monster Mutt land on all four wheels with Pauken not stopping, finishing his crowd-pleasing performance in style.

**Runner-up:** CHARLIE PAUKEN, GRAVE DIGGER, Lebanon Valley Speedway, West Lebanon, NY – I think this is actually a Scotty Awards first, giving recognition to something I did not see live or at least see highlights of on SPEED. But USHRA official Brian Welch told me about Chucky's amazing save in West Leb, and then showed me a series of still pictures sequencing the entire save, and I had to include this as one of the saves of the year. Unbelievable.

Advance Auto Parts

# GRAVE DIGGER EXPERIENCE




Fabricators at Digger's Dungeon recently finished the latest in the fleet of Grave Digger trucks: Grave Digger XXI. But this brand new, race-ready vehicle won't be driven by Dennis, Pablo, or any of the other Grave Digger drivers. In fact, it will be driven by the most important people in the nearly quarter-century history of the team: its fans.

Starting in the fall of 2006, and continuing on in 2007, the Advance Auto Parts Grave Digger Experience will be on the road displaying at some of the 3,000 Advance Auto Parts locations across the United States. Advance Auto Parts customers and Grave Digger fans will have the opportunity to sit in the truck and watch a video that brings an actual freestyle performance to life. Visitors will also have the opportunity to view some Grave Digger and Monster Jam memorabilia, including fire suits, helmets, and photos of various trucks. "The experience contains a flat screen TV mounted inside the vehicle, which features a realistic effect of what it's like to actually drive the truck," said Mike Wales, Sr. Director of Operations—Monster Truck Fleet for Live Nation Motorsports.

Since most Monster Jam fans know that the tires are disassembled and replaced with smaller transport tires before being loaded into the trailer, building a race ready monster truck on 66" tires to fit inside the trailer was no easy task. "The lower part of the chassis is an authentic Patrick chassis," Wales said. "The rest was built in our North Carolina shop. The passenger side cage was narrowed six inches, and we narrowed the body and nose also. Looking at the truck from the front, you can't really tell that these modifications have even been made. We also offset the wheels and brought them tight against the shocks. Other than that," Wales said, "it is a race-ready truck. The seat and controls are exactly what we run in the race trucks. The motor is complete with an injection system, mag, steering pump and fuel pump." It took three fabricators just over a month to complete the modifications and to mount Grave Digger XXI in to the Advance Auto Parts Grave Digger Experience trailer.

"We have a very strong relationship with Advance Auto Parts," Wales said, "They are a national sponsor of Monster Jam and recognize the value of both Grave Digger and the Monster Jam brand. One of the important points made in the experience is that you can buy the heavy duty parts used in Grave Digger XXI at Advance Auto Parts. From our MSD Ignition systems, to Fel-Pro gaskets, to K&N filters and all of our u-joints, fluids, and pressure lines, you can truly walk into any Advance Auto Parts in the country and find parts for our monsters."

To find out when the Advance Auto Parts Grave Digger Experience will be at an Advance Auto Parts store near you, log onto www.AdvanceAutoParts.com or visit www.MonsterJamOnline.com/truckDisplaysList.

# LOOKING BACK

GRAVE DIGGER
Since 1982 25th Anniversary

By Scott Douglass

Below: The truck that started it all. The first Grave Digger was a 1951 Ford F-1 painted with red primer and simple yellow letters on the side.
Left page: Dennis Anderson circa 1983

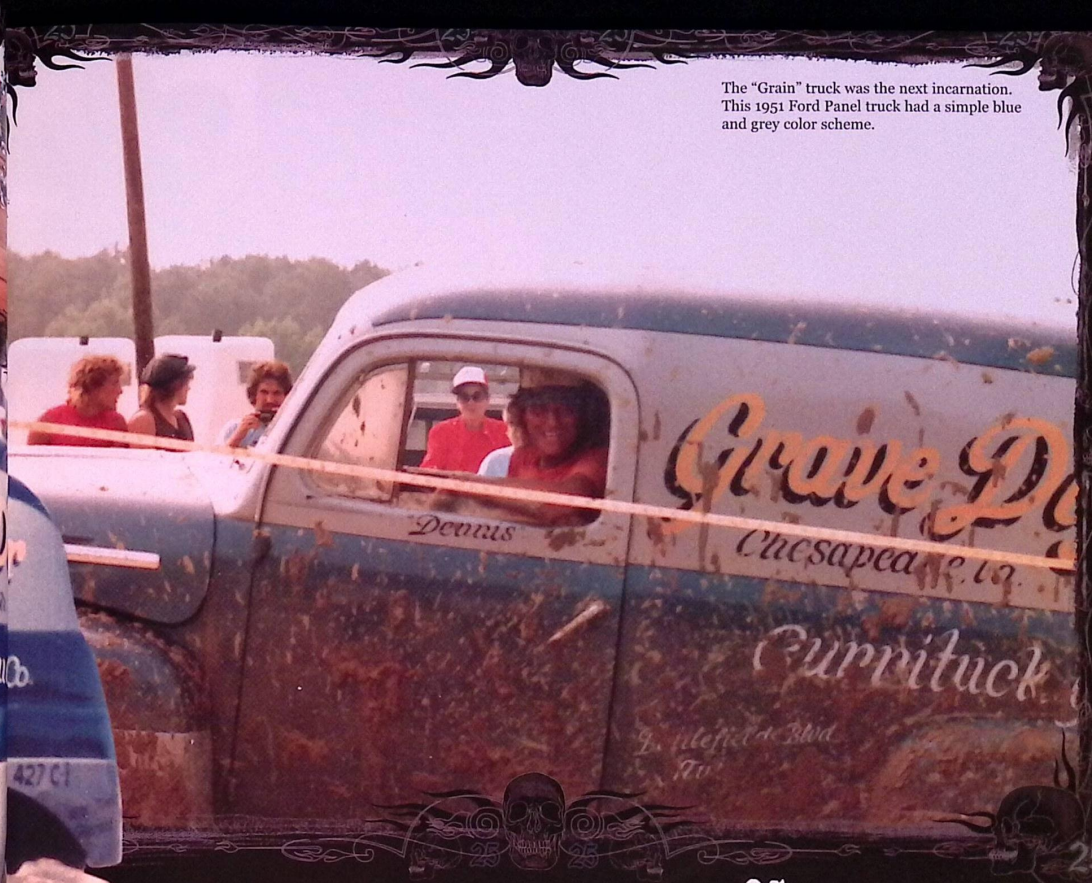
When Monster Jam legend Dennis Anderson drives Grave Digger onto the track in 2007, he'll be competing for a 25th season in a sport where very few have lasted more than a handful of years. Anderson's silver anniversary in Grave Digger finds him more popular than ever, coming off one of his most successful seasons in which he won the Monster Jam World Racing Championship for the second time in three years. It also finds him having more fun than ever and, just maybe, happier than he has ever been regarding his career. No one can compete forever, but for Anderson, the end of the line appears to still be way down the road.

In his early days driving Grave Digger the thought that he'd be on top of this sport some two and a half decades later was almost inconceivable. Anderson's penchant for destroying his equipment to please his fans appeared to be a recipe for a short career: Grave Digger needing constant repairs and Anderson's bank account struggling to keep up. On top of that, consider the physical beating that Dennis was taking in the early-stage monster trucks, and it is truly amazing that we celebrate Anderson's 25th anniversary tour this year.

> For Anderson, the end of the line appears to still be way down the road.

From the sport's beginning as a thrill act in support of truck and tractor pulling events, Dennis Anderson could see the potential for the monster truck industry. "I could tell by the crowd's response going to the tractor pulls that if they had more monster trucks out there, even if it was just in a freestyle competition, that this was gonna kick off," he remembers. Anderson also quickly realized that his all-out, take-no-prisoners driving style was exactly what the fans wanted to see. From the beginning of his career until this day, his commitment to giving the fans everything they paid

The "Grain" truck was the next incarnation. This 1951 Ford Panel truck had a simple blue and grey color scheme.



for and more makes him the most popular figure in the business.

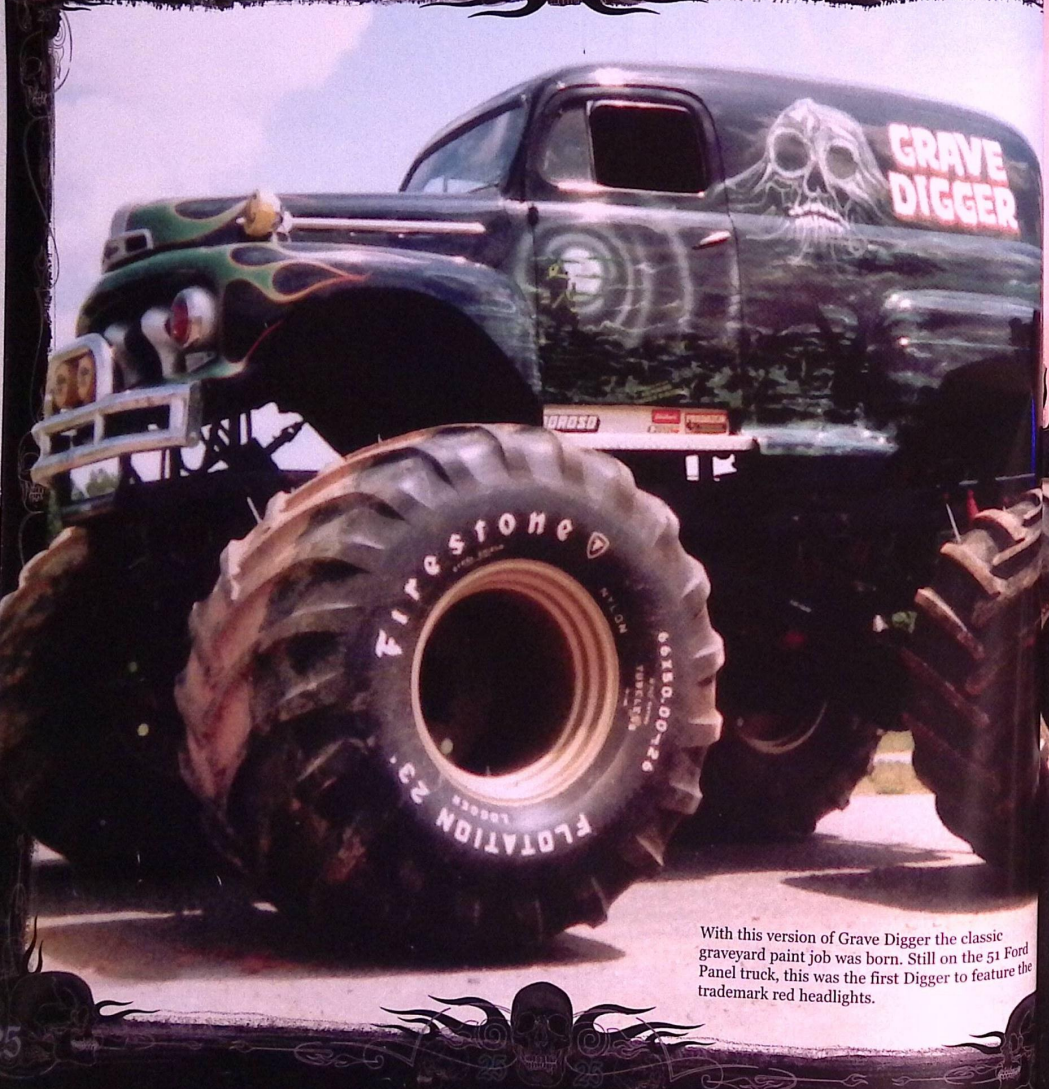
While Anderson relishes the longevity and success of his career, he's the first to admit that for several years he wondered just how long he'd be able to continue. Driving Digger into the ground and getting standing ovations was great. But then there was the aftermath: fixing the truck. The expense of those repairs almost put Grave Digger on the sidelines before the legend could be created. It was in those early, financially challenging times that Anderson says his fans "really kept me going."

**It was in those early, financially challenging times that Anderson says his fans "really kept me going."**

I asked him once during an interview: "So, Dennis, with those financial struggles in the 80s and early 90s, did you ever come into a show and

## 25 YEARS AGO...

- Current President George W. Bush's father was the Vice President.
- The average American household income was $20,171 per year.
- A first class postage stamp cost 20 cents.
- "Chariots of Fire" won the Oscar for Best Picture and "Betty Davis Eyes" won the Song of the Year Grammy.
- "Hill Street Blues" and "Barney Miller" were named best TV shows at the Emmy Awards.
- The San Francisco 49ers beat the Cincinnati Bengals 26-21 in the Super Bowl.
- The St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series in seven games over the Milwaukee Brewers.
- The Los Angeles Lakers won the NBA championship in six games over the Philadelphia 76ers.
- Italy beat West Germany 3 to 1 to win the World Cup.
- Gato Del Sol won the Kentucky Derby.
- Benny Parsons won the pole, but it was Bobby Allison who won the Daytona 500.
- And the legend of the Grave Digger Monster Truck was born.



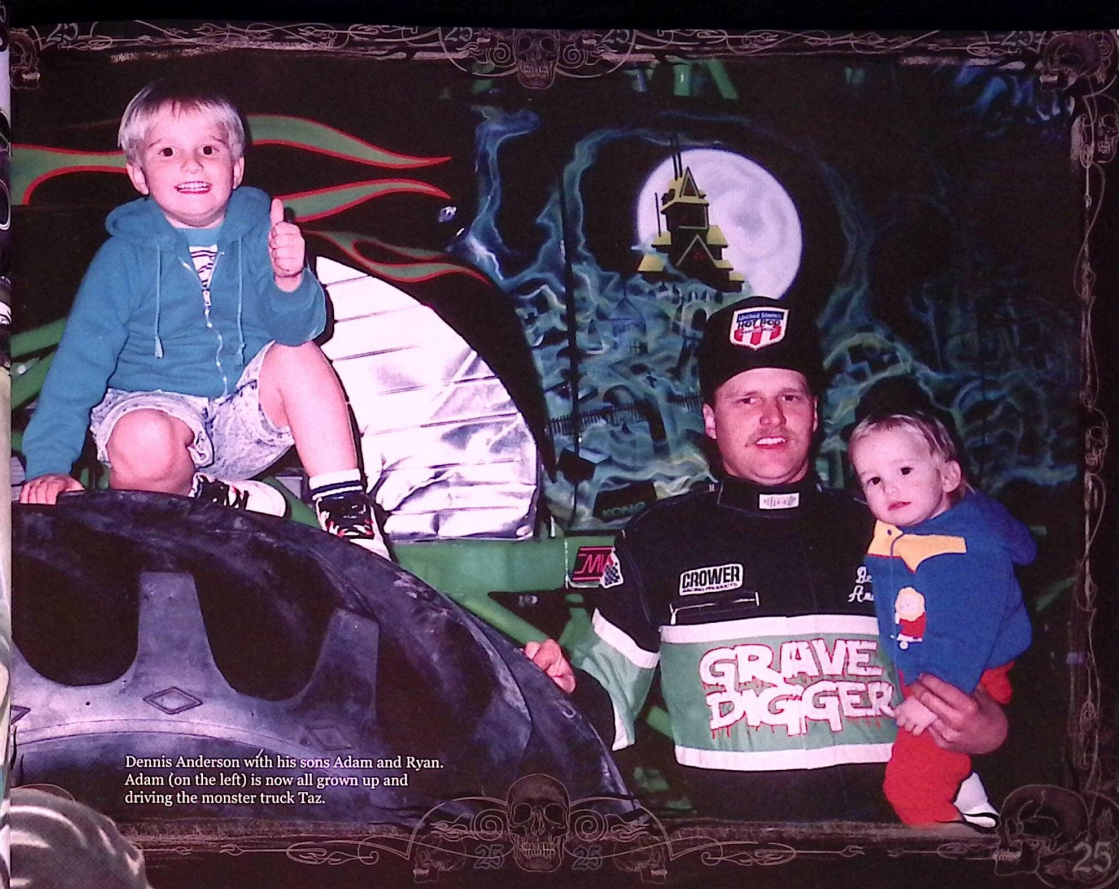

With this version of Grave Digger the classic graveyard paint job was born. Still on the 51 Ford Panel truck, this was the first Digger to feature the trademark red headlights.

say 'I'd better take care of the equipment tonight?'" His answer: "No. No. If I have said it, it never happens. Once I get out there and see somebody else go, and it looks like they're going fast or going hard, it's like 'I gotta top them.' Lots of times I'll fumble up doin' it, I'll try so hard I'll just outdo myself. I'm not gonna say I've gotten better at it. I've just gotten better equipment. Sometimes I will use my head a little more than I will use my foot, but I swear, when I use my head more than my foot my driving style just all goes the other way. I could save that truck, try to make it last through the show and then get knocked out in the first round. So if I'm gonna get knocked out in the first round, I'd rather do it flippin' that truck or flying through the air and being DQ-ed than just grandpawin' it down the track." That Anderson style has always been a part of the Grave Digger mystique and it's been a key factor in making Anderson the most popular monster truck driver in the sport's history.

> "If I'm gonna get knocked out in the first round, I'd rather do it flippin' that truck or flying thought the air and being DQ-ed than just grandpawin' it down the track."

The love the fans show him is reciprocated, too. Monster Jam drivers have always given more back, more willingly, to the fans than any other athlete. And Dennis Anderson tops that list. Anderson says all of the time he spends with his fans, and cultivating new ones is, "well worth it. To have

This is where it all comes together. The legendary paint scheme has been combined with Grave Digger's new body, a 50 Chevy Panel truck. This is also the first Digger to use a fiberglass body.




Dennis Anderson with his sons Adam and Ryan. Adam (on the left) is now all grown up and driving the monster truck Taz.

them on your side when you're not doing good, they make you do good. They keep your spirits up when they're all cheering you on. Think of how many times I've crashed, or the truck has quit, or it's stopped on the track and my fans have still been behind me. I think of that and I really do enjoy talking to them." Notice that Dennis never refers to "the fans." He always refers to them as "my fans." His equipment may have gotten better, his successes may have become greater, but his special relationship with the millions of Grave Digger fans has never changed, and it never will.

> **"Think of how many times I've crashed, or the truck has quit, or stopped on the track and my fans have still been behind me."**

Twenty-five years driving a monster truck is uncharted territory. Only Anderson and a handful of other veterans who have been around since the sport's infancy know what that's like. More than anyone else, it's those who have been around since the early days who have the greatest appreciation for the technology that has not only advanced the sport, but allowed them to continue and develop such lengthy careers. Today's amazing shock packages, chassis technology, and seat and safety harness designs not only let the trucks fly to amazing new heights, they also protect the drivers better than ever. Anderson never backed down from a jump because he knew the landing was going to hurt, but he still appreciates the state of the art machines that the Grave Digger team puts him in now.

Anderson has spent more than half of his life in motorsports. "I started at tractor pullin' - a garden tractor deal"

As Dennis continued to update his truck, the wheel base and the truck body got longer. The Grave Digger logo was put on one line to read boldly across the side.

Anderson explained. "I created the first piece of junk that I drove around as Grave Digger in 1979. In 1980 I started going to mud bogs and it just kind of grew from there. Later, there was the first Grave Digger Monster Truck, but it was 1986 before it was first in the public eye on television. It was in St. Paul, MN, when I beat Bigfoot. It was one of the biggest highlights, one of the proudest things I've ever done." To this day when you specifically ask Dennis what he would say is the highlight of his quarter-century driving Grave Digger, as you might expect, he will tell you there are way too many to pick just one.

> **"If it wasn't for Bigfoot I'd have never done what I've done."**

As soon as he says that, though, he will mention winning his first Monster Jam World Finals Racing Championship in 2004, one of the most emotional nights in the sport's history that saw the icon finally get that elusive World Title with his sons Adam and Ryan on the track to join in the celebration. Then he immediately goes right back to talking about that night some 20 years ago in Minnesota. That first racing win against Bigfoot remains, in Dennis's mind, one of the biggest and most important wins in his career. That win over Bigfoot was significant for more than just pride. It put Grave Digger on the monster truck map. And it was big personally for Anderson. He says that's why he got in the sport in the first place. "It was because of Bigfoot. Bob Chandler (Bigfoot creator) was the man back then. He was the man I wanted to go get. By the time I could get enough junk put together to go out there and try something, Jimmy Kramer (Bigfoot driver) was then the most

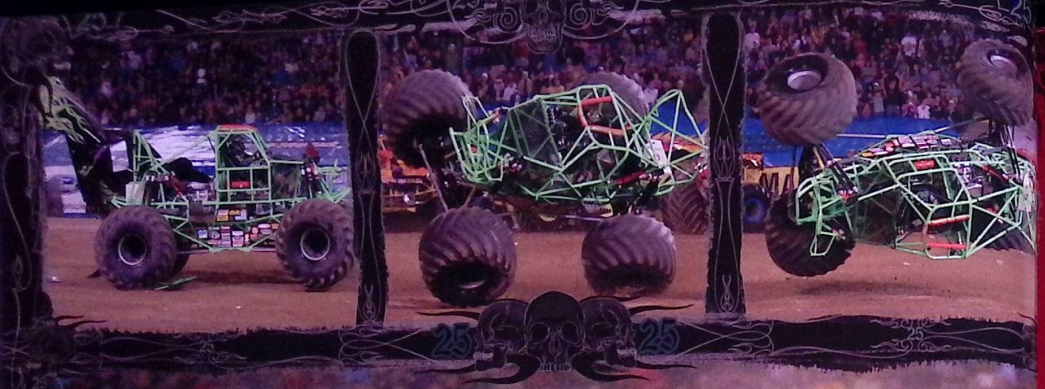
Left: Grave Digger's ghost has changed over the years. Down: In 2002 Dennis had a special edition 20th anniversary truck that featured a skull and crossbones instead of the iconic ghost image. The tombstones painted on the side showcased Digger designs of the past.

popular driver. So then I was out to get Jimmy Kramer. But it was always Bigfoot. People think that I hate Bigfoot. I love Bigfoot. If it wasn't for Bigfoot I'd have never done what I've done."

Dennis Anderson enters his 25th Monster Jam campaign as the reigning Monster Jam World Finals racing champion, in excellent health, and enjoying his career more than he ever has. There seems to be no doubt that he still has several great years left on the track. While he's proud of his personal accomplishments, he really starts beaming when you ask about the next generation of Andersons in monster trucks, his sons Adam and Ryan. Adam has already proven he's a chip off the ol' block, becoming a top contender right out of the hauler. Still not old enough to drink the champagne he's been winning, Adam Anderson twice in 2006 won major freestyle events in sold-out stadiums, over line-ups that included his father and his dad's biggest rival, seven-time Monster Jam World Finals Champion Tom Meents in Maximum Destruction. It's obvious that the Anderson name is not only the biggest name in the sport's history, but will be in its future as well.

> "What I want to do is throw my hat off to my fans, and walk off that track with my sons taking over."

It's hard to see Dennis getting out of the driver's seat any time soon, but eventually that day will come. When it finally is time for Dennis Anderson to hang up his firesuit, it will be sad in some ways, but it also will be a glorious passing of the torch from proud papa to his talented sons. "I've got a game plan," he explains. "What I want to do is to walk off the track, throw my hat off to my fans, and walk off that track with my sons taking over... A perfect retirement for me would be for Adam to beat the old man," Dennis says. "I would love to walk away and be able to feel good about it. It's like, if my son came out



In 2006 Dennis had another special edition truck that was different from the fleet. The paintjob on this truck featured thick green flames throughout the graveyard and the ghost was changed to green with glowing red eyes.

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or call (252) 453-4121 before making your plans to visit to get the upcoming appearance schedule for Dennis Anderson at the Digger's Dungeon along with other special events!

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and he was takin' over and he kicked my butt, and I had to walk off the track and say 'ok, that's my last race', you know I wouldn't be giving up, I'd be getting to hand it on. I want that second generation. I want it to keep going."

We will see if Dennis' exit strategy plays out the way he dreams it will, but that will be down the road, probably several years down the road. For now, it is still Dennis Anderson's day. He'll make his way around the country on this 25th Anniversary Tour not as a veteran just hanging on, making one last visit to say goodbye, but as a champion. Anderson will roar into stadiums in Grave Digger as he always has, ripping it up and bringing his fans to their feet. Twenty-five years into a motorsports career where he has been "the man" for so long, Dennis Anderson remains at the top of the Monster Jam mountain as well as being a contender to add even more championships to his unprecedented resume in the coming years. So let us all celebrate the 25th anniversary of Grave Digger and Dennis Anderson knowing that the best may still be yet to come.

Get the FULL STORY on the new Grave Digger 25th Anniversary special edition DVD!

# THE EYES OF A CHAMPION

## FRESH ON THE MONSTER JAM SCENE, COURTNEY JOLLY HAS HER MIND SET ON THE SPORT'S BIGGEST PRIZE, A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

BY JOE LOWE

In August 2005, when most recent high school graduates were preparing for their first year of college, Courtney Jolly was learning to drive a monster truck in Kill Devil Hills, NC. That year, in addition to her studies in business and marketing at Florida Gulf Coast University, Courtney spent almost every weekend flying to a different city to compete in Monster Jam events. How does a smart, pretty, young, blonde-haired, blue-eyed girl from Florida handle this big boys' world? Quite well, thank you.

She may look like your average, girl-next-door, college co-ed, but make no mistake; there is a competitive racing side to her that would make any gearhead proud. She comes by this racing bug naturally. Four out of her six sisters race; her mother, father, and stepfather race; and, as Courtney puts it, "in her day" so did her grandmother. She says being the middle of seven girls in this blended family, as well as being at a racetrack since she was in diapers, has helped her to develop her competitive edge. A big family also gave her the love and support she needed to spread her young wings and reach for her dreams.

Courtney's accomplishments are as many and as varied as her interests. She's a

# Florida Gulf Coast Universit

former beauty queen and 4-H Junior Leader of the year, but Courtney also has several racing wins on her resume. She began her racing career in go-karts when she was seven, winning several track championships. Racing go-karts came to a screeching halt after Courtney suffered a serious arm injury. Doctors told her that she would never be strong enough to race again. Well, this self-proclaimed "hard-headed race brat" was ready to prove all of the doctors wrong.

Courtney began racing rear-engine dragsters at 16 years old, finishing 2nd out of over a hundred competitors in only her 2nd year of racing at Immokalee Regional Raceway. At 18, Courtney entered the World Famous Swamp Buggy Races following in her parents footsteps. Her mother, Bonnie Walsh, was the 2005 Budweiser Cup World Champion, and her stepfather, Terry "T-Bone" Walsh was the 2006 Budweiser Cup Champion. Courtney won her first swamp buggy race competing in the V-8 Stock class the first time she drove onto the track. The next day she defeated her mother and went on to win the Intermediate Feature Race. Another interesting fact about Courtney is that she is a former Swamp Buggy Queen, and she is the only queen to ever get behind the wheel of a racing buggy.

Being the motorsports fanatic she is, it was inevitable that she would attend her hometown Monster Jam. It didn't take Courtney very long to find the Monster Jam Director Brian Welch at her home track in Naples, FL. "I was there to sing the National Anthem," she recalled. "They made the mistake of giving me a pit pass. Getting up close and personal with these monsters made me fall in love with the horsepower that they created. I had to get behind the wheel of one of them! The next day I returned with my photo credentials to prove to Brian Welch that I had a racing background. I gave him my contact information and told him that I had to drive a monster truck. In a few days, [Fleet Director] Mike Wales called and invited me to North Carolina for an audition. I guess I passed the test - he told me I was a keeper. The rest is history. Now it's racing and college, or is that college and racing?"

Courtney leads a busy life juggling college, family, racing and a personal life. Her freshman year was a bit hard when she told instructors that she would be gone for four out of the seven days a week. Some didn't believe her when she told them about her career. "I told one teacher about me being gone on weekends, flying out on Thursday and not coming home 'til Sunday or Monday. He doubted me until I told him to go to MonsterJamOnline.com and see my name and picture on the drivers' page. He thought it was cool, but warned me that I would have to keep up my studies if I wanted to stay in his class. I did and I passed the first year, but it wasn't easy."

While most students gain weight during their freshman year, Courtney lost enough to get her Mom concerned. "I didn't eat on the road or sleep very well. I

**LEFT PAGE**
(Clockwise from top) Courtney is a student at Florida Gulf Coast University; No stranger to racing and winning, Courtney has a wall of trophies to prove it; Courtney makes Sammy's (her biggest fan in Reno, NV) dream come true; Courtney tearing up the Monster Jam circuit in Pastrana 199.

**RIGHT PAGE**
(Clockwise from top left) Doing double duty, Courtney not only raced, but was crowned the 2003 Swamp Buggy Queen; Undoubtedly the only sister driving duo in Monster Jam history, Courtney's big sister Candice is now piloting Monster Mutt; Motorsports are a family affair with the Jollys.

studied during the day leaving the hauler only to do interviews, pit parties and race. The racing was secondary to my studying sometimes because I knew I had a big exam when I got home on Monday. Now that I have made it through a first quarter, I know how to plan my classes so I can make enough room for my crazy traveling schedule. This year I plan to be more focused on racing. I have also gained a bit of weight because spending time with my family and friends means 'since we are all together, lets go get something to eat!' When I am at home I will do breakfast with family, lunch with some girlfriends and dinner with my boyfriend or another couple."

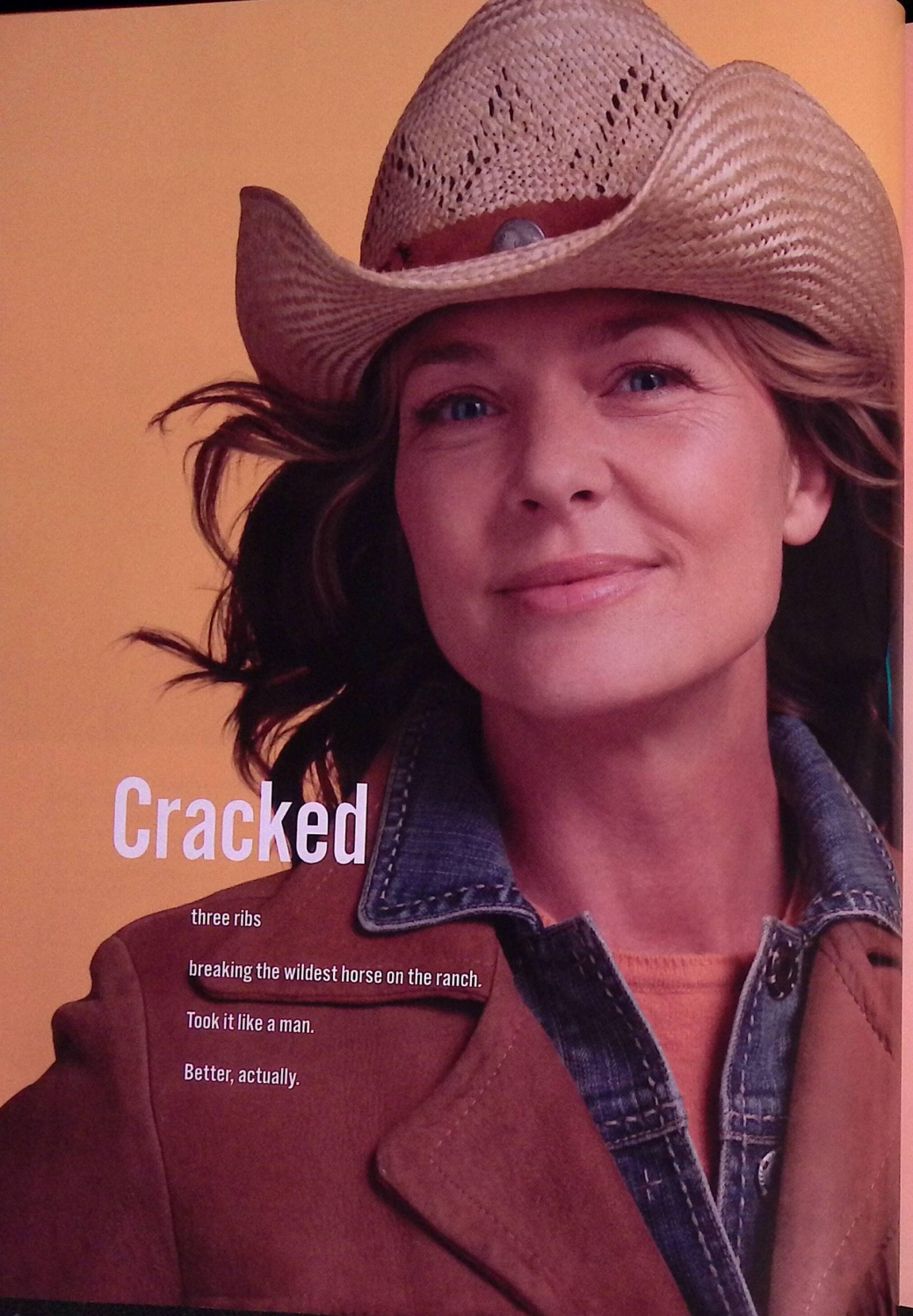
Did she say boyfriend? Yes she did, sorry guys. Courtney is in a relationship with someone back home. When asked how she handles things on the road she replies, "Because I only have a few days a week at home, it makes me appreciate the time I have to spend with the people that mean the most to me. I also have this diamond ring that my big sister gave me that I wear when I am out. That seems to keep most of the guys away. Besides, I'm way too busy on the road for a social life and my stepfather goes on the road with me much of the time as a part pit-crew/part chaperon."

Driving a monster truck is not something you just do. You must learn and Courtney is quick to tell you about those who taught her the business. Paul Cohen, the 2004 rookie of the year took her under his wing. "When I moved to my current ride, the Air Force Afterburner, Courtney was chosen to take over in Pastrana. I tried to pass on to Courtney the lessons I learned in the first year or two of competition. She is a fast learner."

In her first year of competition Courtney has gained her share of fans. They talk to her during autograph sessions and during pit parties. Many seem to be impressed with what she has accomplished in her short time in the business. She seems to be a born teacher talking with the young fans encouraging them to work hard, get an education and set goals in life. "Sometimes the parents ask me to tell kids to do their homework, clean their room, and to play well with others. I try to stay out of the family arguments, but I do gently nudge them in the right direction if I can."

The college sophomore knows there is more to life than monster trucks, but not on the weekends. "I will be in classes Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, leaving time for me to travel and work my way to Las Vegas. During the early part of the week I am just a student. Each weekend, I plan to be in the seat of Pastrana 199. I am blessed to be doing this. I have my sights set on a World Championship before I am 21." That gives her another whole year. Courtney turned 20 on Sept. 18, 2006.

Many Monster Jam fans think this young driver is one to watch in 2007. With her winning smile, sparkling eyes and unwavering determination she just might be the next Monster Jam World Champion.



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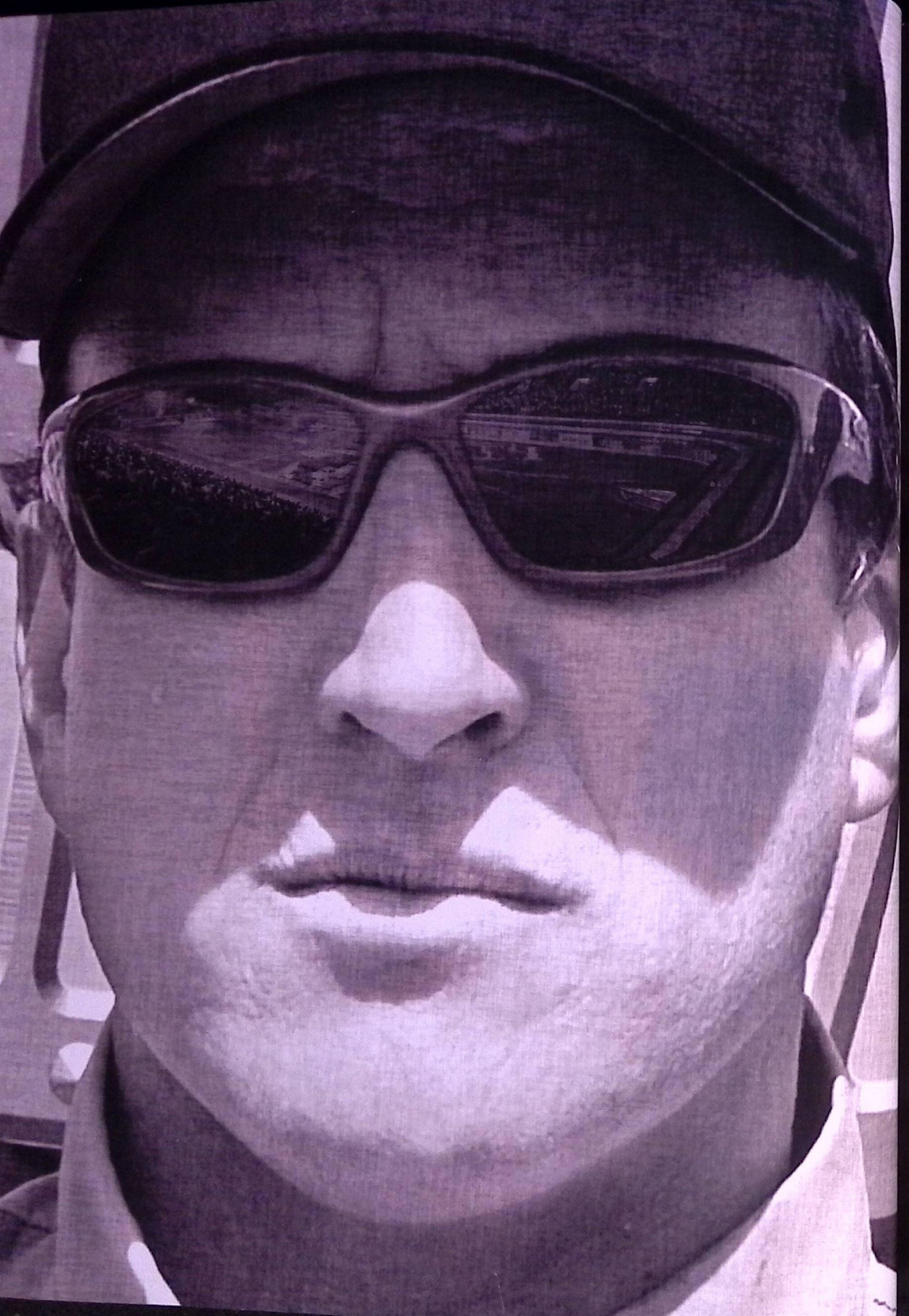

# FIVE MINUTES WITH TOM MEENTS

INTERVIEW BY ANGIE RICHISON

What sets the 2006 Monster Jam World Finals Freestyle Championship apart from your other wins?
TM It had been two years since my last championship. It was very rewarding for me to get back to the top.

Do you have any special preparations for the Monster Jam World Finals that are different from other events?
TM This past year we actually took the weekend before Finals off to work on the trucks and make sure everything was ready to go.

With everything that goes on leading up to the competition, how do you stay focused?
TM I've always been motivated to win, but up until the race actually starts it's hard to focus on the competitive part of it because your time is spread so thin. Between focusing on displays, autograph sessions and getting the trucks in race-ready condition, there isn't time to focus.

Being the guy with the most championships, is there extra pressure?
TM Absolutely! With me to walk out of there with anything less than a win is disappointing in everyone's eyes.

Given your racing history beginning with mud racing though today, do you prefer racing or freestyle?
TM Freestyle. It's all about the fans and putting on a great show for them.

After many events, you give away your helmet to a fan in the stands. What motivates you to do that?
TM I started that trend in 1997. Now people have signs that say, "Hey Tom, give me a helmet." It really caught on and now people tell me that they think that is the best part of the show.

You've made history with your freestyle performances and even jumped your own house; is there anything that you're still determined to jump?
TM I have about three more big stunts planned right now. Maybe I'll pull one out for World Finals '07. I'm always trying to think of ways to go bigger and better.

What inspired a young boy from a small town in Illinois to get behind the seat of a 10,000 pound monster truck?
TM The whole story is on the True Life of Tom Meents DVD, but the short version is:
I was always a 4-wheel drive junkie. I was always jumping ramps and stuff on my bike. It is a dream that I turned into a reality.

Is there any other motor sport that you would like to try and why?
TM Drag racing. I have always been a huge fan. I have always loved the horsepower and would love to go 330 mph. That would be great.

If you could take anyone for a ride in your monster truck, who would it be?
TM My daughter, though I don't know if she would go with me or not. She has always ridden with me on the 4-wheeler since she was a baby and she loves doing wheelies and jumping stuff with me.

What is the best thing about monster truck racing?
TM Seeing the people come back year after year and getting excited about the show. Jumping and doing well on the track is great, but hearing the crowd and knowing that they liked it and bringing them to their feet is an awesome feeling.

What is the worst thing about monster truck racing?
TM Ok. You get home from a show on Sunday night, you work 16-hour days to get the trucks going for the next show and you leave out again on Wednesday. You're driving through a blinding snowstorm and you realize you have 20 more hours to go until you reach the next show.

What is your most memorable moment in the sport so far?
TM No one moment stands out in my mind. They are all there, from winning races to great freestyle performances, to watching some of my competitors do some fantastic things on the track.

You spend a lot of time on the road. What do you do for fun when you get home?
TM Spend time with my daughter. We like to ride dirt bikes and 4-wheelers. I built some jumps in the backyard this year and I enjoy going out there and riding my dirt bike. It's great exercise and I love it.

What is the most memorable place or event you've been to so far and why?
TM Las Vegas [Monster Jam] World Finals, all of 'em. Why? It's Vegas! Biggest event, best competition and toughest event to win.

You've been an idol for many kids that love monster trucks. Who is Tom Meents' idol and why?
TM John Force [drag race legend]. I've always been a fan. Back when I was mud racing, I had a John Force T-shirt that I wore under my firesuit every race. It was my good luck charm.

You've trained several drivers over the years, what advice do you give them to really set them apart to be a "Team Meents" driver?
TM You've got to give these guys time in the seat if you want them to learn. Too much information all at once is confusing, and they don't get it until they are actually doing it. They have to get a feel for some things and learn on their own. I'm not trying to make cookie cutter Tom Meents'. They each have their own style and that's the way it should be. Don't get me wrong, I give them plenty of advice about things I've learned in the last fourteen years.

Is there anything about the sport that you would like to change or see happen?
TM I'd like to see racetracks set up more like a motocross track. Bigger jumps and obstacles in racing.

Many fans dream of traveling to the Monster Jam World Finals. Is there a dream event (non-monster truck) that you hope to attend some day?
TM I really want to go to another Motley Crue concert.

## QUICK HITS

- What is your favorite cartoon? *Spongebob Squarepants*
- Favorite Music? *Heavy metal*
- Favorite Superhero? *The Incredible Hulk*
- Favorite Cereal? *Cheerios*
- If you could do any other job for one day, what would it be? *Top Fuel funny car driver*
- Favorite food? *Steak*
- Any superstitions? *Nope, you make your own destiny.*
- Favorite class in school? *Shop*
- Cookies or Cake? *Cake*
- Movies – Drama, Comedy, or Romantic? *What happened to Action?*
- Favorite Halloween costume growing up? *Football player*

## Visit the best sites on the web:

- MonsterJamOnline.com
- GraveDigger.com
- SupercrossOnline.com
- USSX.com
- Arenacross.com
- FreestyleMotocrossOnline.com
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# IN THE WEENK OF AN EYE

Like most children born in the tiny Canadian town of Plenty, Saskatchewan (population 300), Linsey Weenk spent his early years on and around the family farm. On the evening of his third birthday, Weenk was presented with a bright red pedal car. He instantly loved this gift, and spent hours on end pedaling as fast as he could around his spacious yard. Some years later, the youngster retired his pedal car for a dirt bike. And although he became quite proficient on his motorized two-wheeler, he was certainly a long way from an appearance on SPEED. Like most things in life, however, time and some luck would change virtually everything.

Weenk credits his tremendous success behind the wheel of a monster truck to his experience as a junior hockey goalie in Canada. Regularly facing slap shots at speeds of nearly one hundred miles per hour, Weenk always had to be razor-sharp. "As a hockey goalie, I learned very quickly that a momentary loss of concentration would result in a bad goal or worse, an injury. I've tried to take this idea with me into the Monster Jam Series. These machines weigh ten thousand pounds and the speeds are incredible. To be a winner in this sport, I always have to be fully aware of my surroundings while maintaining a high level of intensity. My experience as a goalie prepared me perfectly for the challenge of racing against greats like Dennis Anderson and Tom Meents."

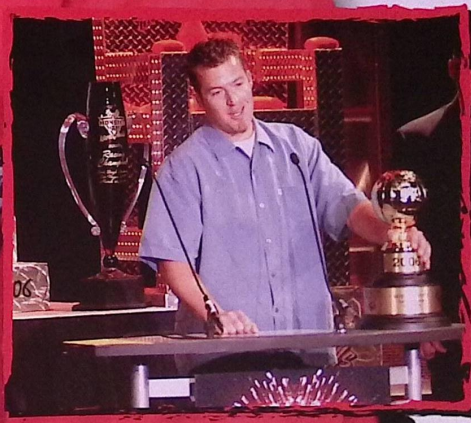
It would be inaccurate, however, to believe that Weenk has risen to the top of the monster truck world solely because of his puck-stopping background. In fact, Weenk is quick to reflect back on the gentleman that gave him his start in monster truck competition in January 2000. "Don Frankish [owner of Jurassic Attack & Maniac] gave me the freedom to do what I wanted behind the wheel of Jurassic Attack. That truck allowed me to push the outer limits and really find out what these trucks were capable of. He gave me so much freedom, in fact, that I went out in front of 68,000 people in San Diego in my very first race ever and won."

When the opportunity to move to Jimmy Creten's 2Xtreme Race Team arose in 2005, Weenk was faced with a huge decision. "I really wasn't sure how he [Frankish] was going to react," said Weenk. "It was one of the toughest questions I ever had to ask of anyone. Here I was asking the guy who gave me my start if I could leave his team." Fortunately, Frankish was completely unselfish in allowing his teammate the opportunity of a lifetime, and actually encouraged Weenk to take the chance.

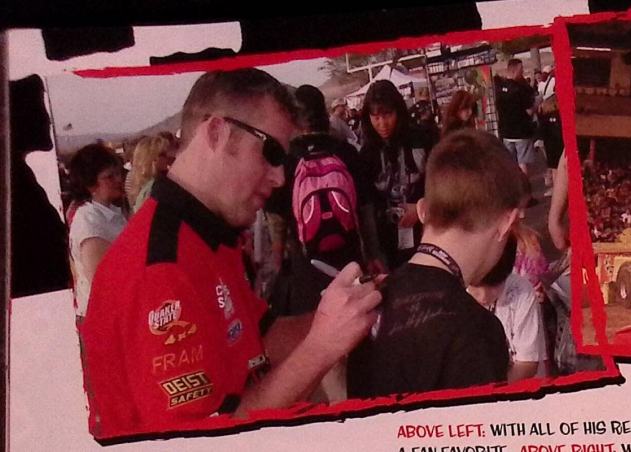
"Deep down, I knew that I could not keep Linsey forever," commented Frankish. "Here was a young, personable, and tremendously talented driver with the mental toughness to go right to the top. I wanted to see Linsey get the chance he worked so hard for over the years to achieve. And when I heard it was Jimmy Creten who had the offer on the table, that sealed it for me."

The 2006 season brought great things for Linsey and the 2Xtreme Racing Team. Starting off in Montreal, Canada, Monster Jam fans watched in awe as Weenk tallied an unprecedented total of 21 consecutive race wins, including victories in three SPEED events.

"The streak had to be both the best and worst thing that ever happened to me. Here I was defeating the very best in the business night in and night out, and some of it was being broadcast on national television. It was hard for people to believe that a kid from Canada could come in and beat the veterans. That was very cool. And the pressure was unbelievable, but I knew I had to keep plugging away. At the starting line I always tried to remember that the boss and the whole team consider



FROM TOP: WEENK INTERVIEWED WITH EMPLOYER AND MENTOR, JIMMY CRETEN; WEENK HAS MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF, PARTICULARLY IN RACING COMPETITIONS, DRIVING IRON OUTLAW; AT THE 2006 USHRA AWARDS CEREMONY, WEENK (ALONG WITH ADAM ANDERSON) WON THE MOST IMPROVED DRIVER OF THE YEAR AWARD.



ABOVE LEFT: WITH ALL OF HIS RECENT RACING SUCCESS, WEENK HAS QUICKLY BECOME A FAN FAVORITE. ABOVE RIGHT: WEENK PILOTED JURASSIC ATTACK FROM 2000-2005 BELOW: AT THE FINAL MONSTER JAM SHOW AT THE PONTIAC SILVERDOME ON 1/7/06, WEENK PUSHED DENNIS ANDERSON IN GRAVE DIGGER TO THE LIMIT. WEENK WENT ON TO BEAT JIMMY CRETEN IN BOUNTY HUNTER FOR THE RACING WIN.

second place as the first loser."

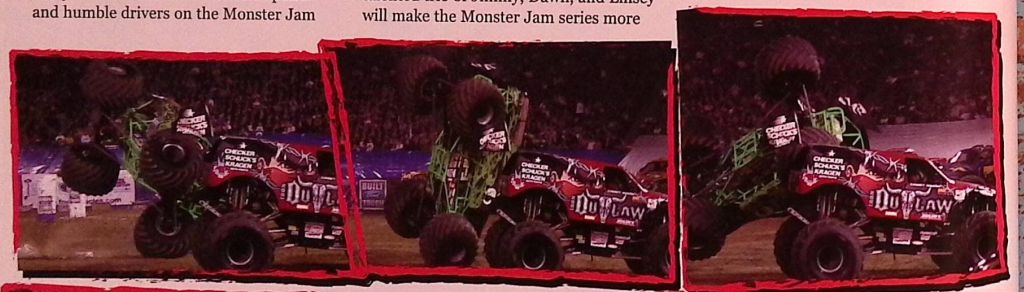
"I don't think there's any question that Jimmy is responsible for my success in the Monster Jam world," stated Weenk. "He brings to the table a level of intensity that is simply unequalled in this sport." While many other drivers are content to simply repair the trucks between events, Jimmy Creten is a man that believes a need for repair means a need for improvement. "Jimmy is never content to just fix things. He always wants to make things better. He's tough at the shop and he is tough at the track. Jimmy is a perfectionist. And I wouldn't want it any other way," remarks Weenk.

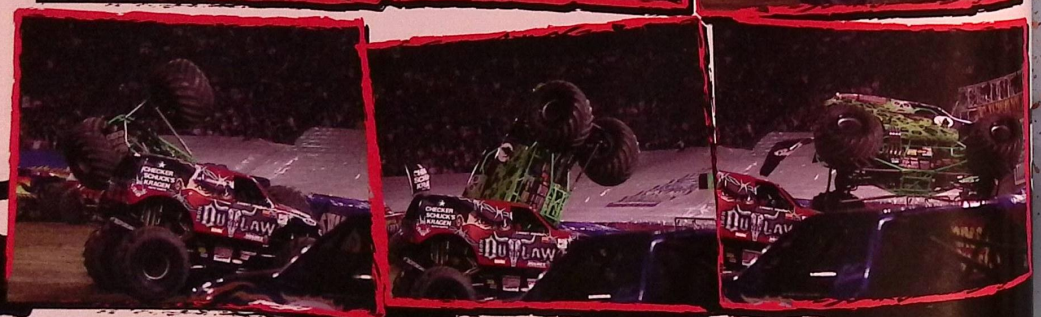
The first thing you will notice when speaking to Linsey at a Monster Jam Pit Party is that he is one of the most polite and humble drivers on the Monster Jam tour. "I don't want this to sound like a cliché, but I really do remember where I came from. I'm a farm boy from Saskatchewan, and I always want to keep that foremost in my mind. My biggest goal is to keep Jimmy, the fans, and the sponsors happy. After that, I'll let things fall where they may."

The 2Xtreme team has plenty of exciting things on their plate for the 2007 Monster Jam season. Look for Dawn Creten to jump behind the wheel once again, giving the 2Xtreme team even more depth at the throttle position. Without a doubt, the talented trio of Jimmy, Dawn, and Linsey will make the Monster Jam series more competitive than ever.

Those that say nice guys finish last should take a peek inside the cockpit of the Iron Outlaw monster truck. With plenty of confidence and an abundance of raw talent, don't be surprised if this Canadian driving sensation goes on another lengthy winning streak very soon. You will need to watch the Monster Jam series very carefully, however, because it's all likely to happen in the "Weenk" of an eye!

*Written by Darren Pallen,*
*Monster Jam Announcer*







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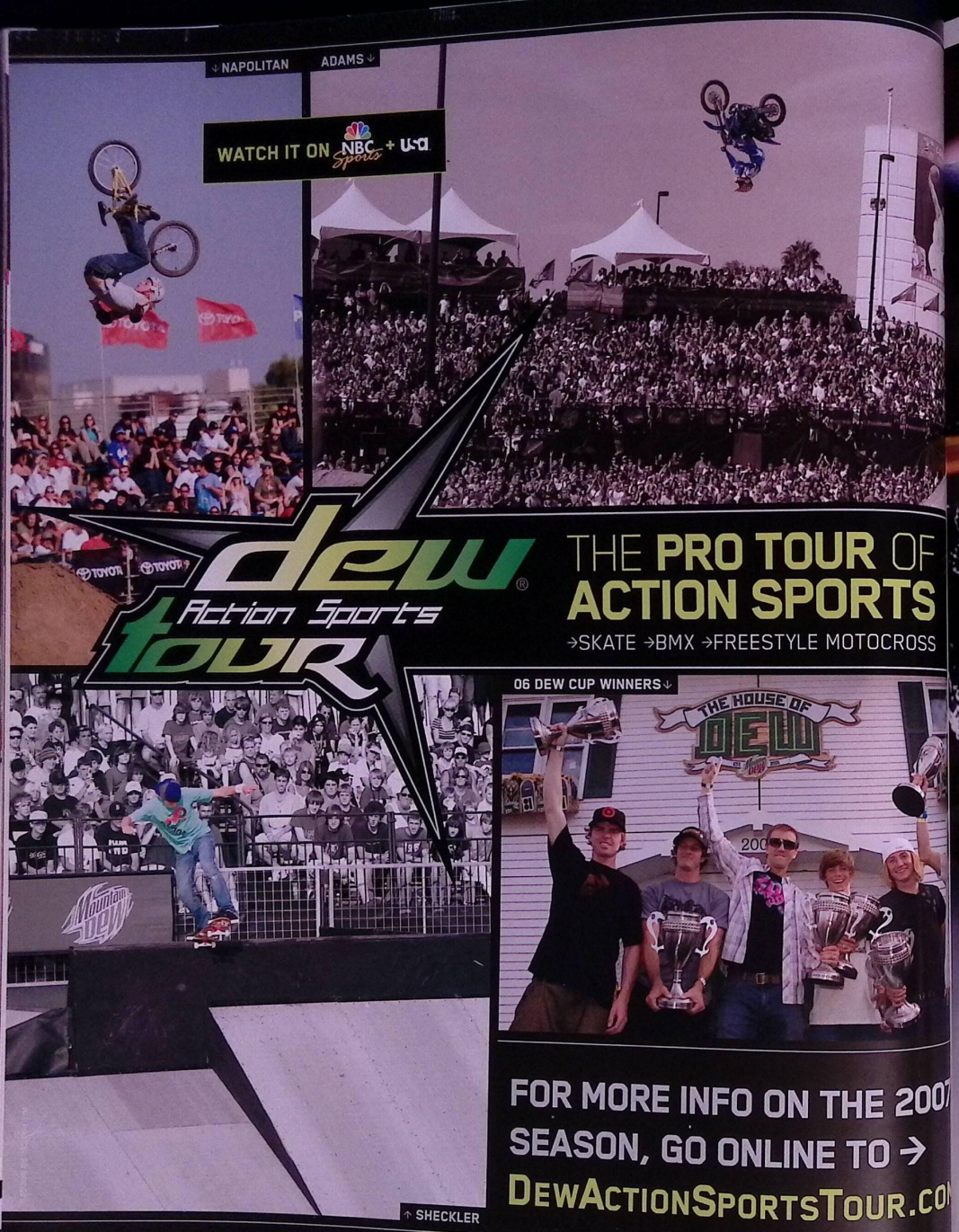
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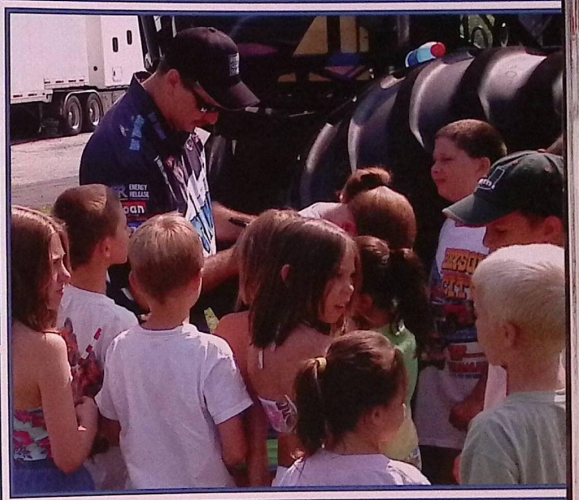
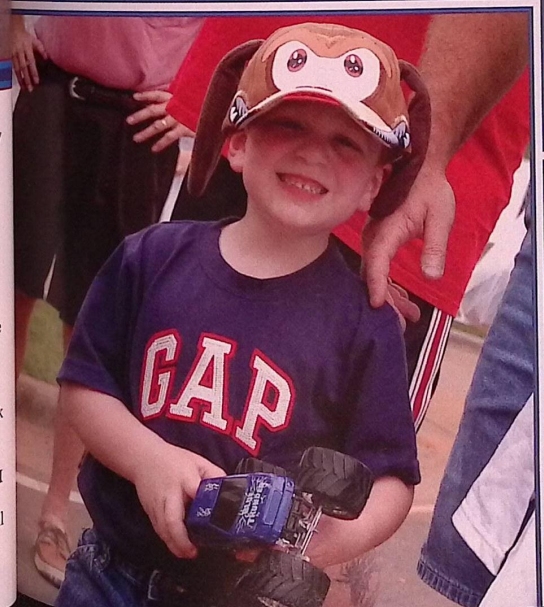
# MONSTERS ON MAINSTREET



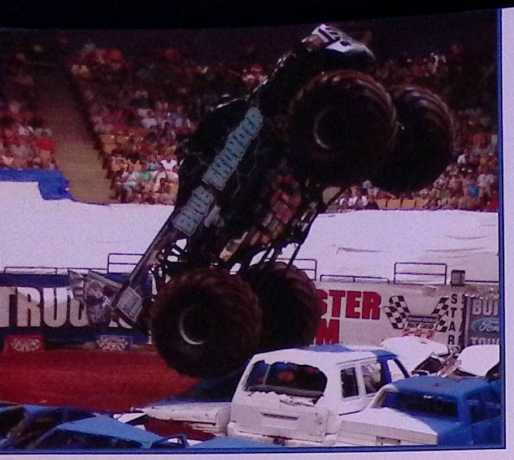


Are you one of those people who never seem to win anything? Maybe you just don't believe average people really do win big prizes. Susan Shannon might have been skeptical before, but she sure believes real people win big prizes now!

Ford Motor Company was entering their sixth consecutive season as the "official truck" of Monster Jam and wanted to connect with the fans by offering a once-in-a-lifetime experience that no one but Ford Trucks and Monster Jam could provide. So during the summer of 2005, the Monster Jam and Ford Truck teams sat down in a Detroit office and tossed ideas around. Some were unbelievable, some were put in the "there is no such thing as a bad idea" category, and one was just perfect.

What was the perfect idea? It started with one question: "What do Monster Jam fans want?" They want to see a great Monster Jam show and share the event with their friends and family. Quickly, the idea began to take shape and Monsters on Mainstreet was born. This sweepstakes would be like nothing before it. Fans could enter free online at www.monstersonmainstreet.com to win. The five finalist prizes could have been all that was needed for a great sweepstakes. Each one received trips to the Monster Jam World Finals in Las Vegas, for themselves and three guests. While staying in Las Vegas, the finalists and their guests received hotel accommodations at the Golden Nugget Hotel, attended the Friday night Double Down event, met all the drivers, and enjoyed the show from their very own suite.

The once-in-a-lifetime portion really took shape on Saturday night, when each finalist was brought down to the event floor at Sam Boyd Stadium in front off a sold out crowd of 36,000 fans and randomly picked a key to try and start the Blue Thunder Super Duty truck. One at a time, they walked down the red carpet escorted by veteran Monster Jam announcer Scott Douglass and Ford Truck Marketing Manager Todd Eckert. Finally, Susan Shannon sat in the driver's seat. "When I got in the truck to try to start it, I couldn't find the ignition. I got the key in and it started to ding and I wondered if all



of the keys did that. Boy was I wrong! I couldn't believe it. I looked for my family and all I could see was smiles. When I got back stage, I found my family, and I was still kind of in a state of 'what just happened?' My sons Riley and Dylan were kind of in a state of shock and overjoyed. Riley had big tears in his eyes. I asked him if he was okay and he said that he was just so happy!! Dylan just kept saying 'they are really coming to our house!! Won't that be cool!' All my husband Chris could do was laugh and say 'I knew you would win!'"

If that weren't enough, the Grand Prize still had to be awarded. Susan Shannon hadn't just won the Monsters on Mainstreet sweepstakes; she won an entire Monster Jam event for her hometown! Following the Monster Jam World Finals, and a front row booth for Susan and family at the Monster Jam Awards Banquet, the Ford Truck and Monster Jam team planned out an event in Susan's hometown of Sylva, NC. With only three months of planning, the event was set for July 1st at the Ramsey Center at Western Carolina University - the closest venue to the Shannon home. Susan now had 5,000 free tickets to distribute in a sleepy mountain town with a population of roughly 2,500. As you can imagine, the Shannons quickly became the town's biggest celebrities, answering questions about the show and doing their best to accommodate all of the ticket requests from family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.

The week of an event is always exciting and packed with a full schedule; Susan Shannon's Monsters on Mainstreet was no different. To say "no corners were cut" is an understatement. All four Blue Thunder Super Duty trucks were driven to Sylva, NC for the event, including one making a 35-hour cross-country journey from California. Wednesday was the official start of the activities, as the Built Ford Tough Blue Thunder Ride Truck led a parade of monsters down Main Street in Sylva. You could feel the buzz in the air; you could feel the excitement and anticipation after hearing those 1,500 horsepower beasts take over the streets. Driving to dinner at Karen's restaurant, it was hard to miss the eight world-class monster trucks seen regularly on SPEED on display around town. One of the two Blue Thunders was parked all week at Andy Shaw Ford, allowing the entire community a chance to see the truck up close and get autographs from the driver. Show day included a pre-party at Andy Shaw Ford and a Built Ford Tough Party in the Pits outside and inside the Ramsey Center. The Shannon family did an amazing job hosting the inaugural Monsters on Mainstreet, filling all 5,000 seats with their very own guests. Blue Thunder brought home the racing title, Monster Mutt won the freestyle title, and the town of Sylva, with help from Susan Shannon, won a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Hopefully you now realize that people really do win, especially when Ford Trucks and Monster Jam are involved. Log on to www.monstersonmainstreet.com now and enter. The next story about Monsters on Mainstreet could be about you and your hometown.

*Written by Ben Huggler*

## A LETTER FROM SUSAN SHANNON
### MONSTERS ON MAINSTREET GRAND PRIZE WINNER

I want you to know that everyone involved with the Monsters on Mainstreet event was so nice to my family! All of the drivers, crew and everyone from Ford were just the nicest people. You guys do a great job!!

My sons Riley and Dylan think that we should hang the side of Tony Farrell's Blue Thunder truck that was given to us in our hallway!! I told them probably not. I think we are going to be able to put it on their ceiling in their bedroom instead. They are currently working on a special thank you message to all of the drivers.

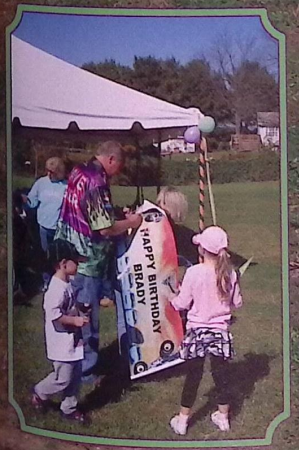
You have given my family memories that will last a lifetime! They are still floating on clouds. The night we left the show, Riley wanted to go back and help clean up; he didn't want it to end. His mission in life now is to get out to Vegas next year for the Monster Jam World Finals. He has been searching the web for airline and hotel deals. He leaves me little notes by the computer with quotes, and writes next to it "tax not included." What a boy!! I have a feeling that we will be in Vegas next year!!

Please tell everyone that had anything to do with the Monster weekend that it couldn't have been a better week. We have had so many people call or stop us at stores to tell us what a wonderful time they had. I felt good because I saw so many people there that I know would have never been able to take their children to such an event unless it was free. It made me feel good. You guys should feel so proud of what you did!! It was a one of a kind thing for Sylva.

Take care and hope to talk with you soon,
*Susan (Alias "Momster")*

THE BIGGEST THING TO COME TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

Enter for a chance to win a
GRAVE DIGGER BLOCK PARTY




How would you like to host an all-expense paid, catered party with Grave Digger®, Dennis Anderson, and 50 of your closest friends? Each year www.gravedigger.com and the Grave Digger monster truck team award one lucky family with their very own "Grave Digger Block Party." With 7 exciting parties already celebrated in various parts of the country, will you be the winner this year?

Past Grave Digger Block Parties have been awarded to winners in Florida, Tennessee, California, Illinois, Georgia, Ohio and Virginia. The winners were treated to a special day complete with food, fun, music, games, and the legendary Dennis Anderson as their special guest! Best of all, Grave Digger was parked in their front lawn all day!

Log on to gravedigger.com and follow these simple instructions to register:

1.) Click on "Register for the Grave Digger Block Party" link
2.) Read CONTEST RULES and restricions*
3.) Complete the ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

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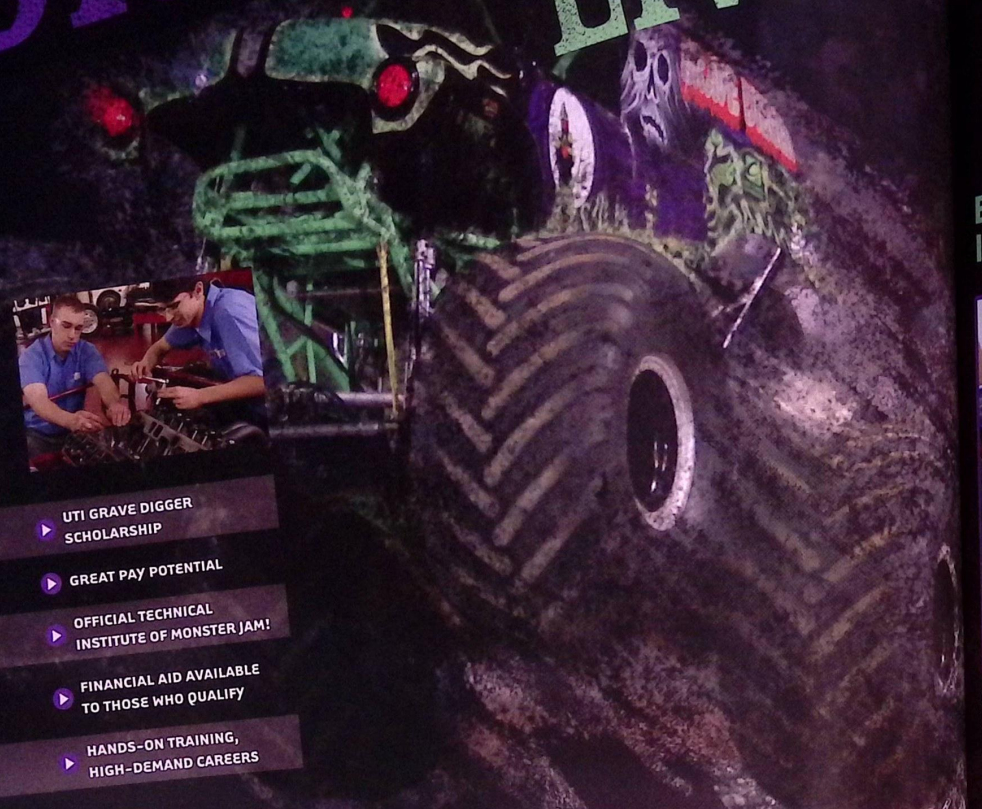
Since 1982 25th Anniversary
GRAVEDIGGER.COM

*Certain rules and restrictions apply, such as age of contestants and employment. See rules for details.

DREAM IT
LEARN IT
LIVE IT



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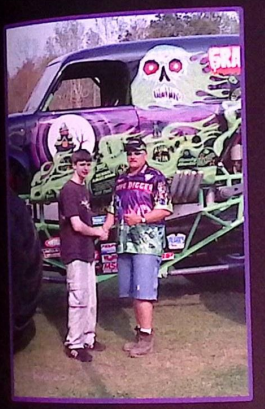
# GRAVE DIGGER SCHOLARSHIP IS BACK

## Brandon Hires Wins Inaugural Scholarship!



Universal Technical Institute and Monster Jam will once again team up with Grave Digger's Dennis Anderson to offer a $20,000 scholarship to any UTI campus. The first ever Grave Digger Scholarship was awarded to Brandon Hires of Dothan, AL at the Monster Jam World Finals on March 25, 2006. Anderson reviewed stacks of entries and selected Hires as the first ever winner. Hires presented his passion for becoming a top technician and demonstrated the same work ethic Anderson used to propel himself to the top of the Monster Jam world.

Brandon received a phone call from Dennis Anderson the morning of the World Finals to let him know that he was the winner. Brandon was extremely happy to hear from the racing legend. Just like Dennis, Brandon had worked hard for what he has. Anderson also announced to the sold-out crowd at Sam Boyd Stadium after winning the 2006 Racing Championship, that Hires was the recipient of the scholarship. Quickly after hearing the news, Brandon made a trip out to the Grave Digger shop in Kill Devil Hills, NC to personally thank Anderson. Brandon is currently enrolled in UTI's Orlando campus and is on track to graduate on September 14, 2007.

UTI, a nationwide provider of technical education, and Monster Jam have agreed to award driven students the Grave Digger Scholarship for the next three years, so there is no need to worry about missing this great opportunity. Start filming and documenting your work now, as it will help your chances.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP?! You must create a two minute video demonstrating "Why Dennis Anderson should choose me for the Grave Digger Scholarship at UTI." Show work that you have done on your own cars, special projects that you've done, or how determined you are to get into the automotive industry. And remember to be creative! Be sure to fill out the written application found on www.UTI.edu. All entries must be postmarked by February 17, 2007 to be eligible. You just may be the winner that Dennis Anderson himself will announce at the Monster Jam World Finals on March 24, 2007!

## 2007 Nitro Jam Event Schedule

**March 23 – 25**
**Amalie Oil Texas Nationals, San Antonio Raceway**
*San Antonio, Texas • www.sanantonioraceway.com*

**April 20 – 22**
**IHRA Spring Nationals, Rockingham Dragway**
*Rockingham, N.C. • www.rockinghamdragway.com*

**May 25 – 27**
**Skull Shine Sooner Nationals, Tulsa Raceway Park**
*Tulsa, Okal. • www.tulsaracewaypark.com*

**June 15 – 17**
**Skull Shine World Nationals, Mansfield Motorsports Park**
*Mansfield, Ohio • www.mansfield-speedway.com*

**July 6 – 8**
**CARS RV & Marine & Motorsports Rocky Mt. Nationals, Castrol Raceway**
*Edmonton, ALB • www.budpark.com*

**July 20 - 22**
**MOPAR Canadian Nationals, Grand Bend Motorplex**
*Grand Bend, ONT • www.grandbendmotorplex.com*

**August 3 – 5**
**Torco Racing Fuels Northern Nationals, US 131 Motorsports Park**
*Grand Rapids, Mich. • www.us131motorsportspark.com*

**August 10 - 12**
**Amalie Oil North American Nationals, New England Dragway**
*Epping, N.H. • www.newenglanddragway.com*

**August 24 – 26**
**Suzuki Motor City Nationals, Milan Dragway**
*Milan, Mich. • www.milandragway.com*

**September 7 – 9**
**IHRA Canadian Nationals, Toronto Motorsports Park**
*Cayuga, Toronto • www.torontomotorsportspark.com*

**September 28 – 30**
**Torco Racing Fuels President's Cup Nationals, Maryland International Raceway**
*Budds Creek, MD • www.mirdrag.com*

**October 19 – 21**
**IHRA World Finals, Rockingham Dragway**
*Rockingham, N.C. • www.rockinghamdragway.com*

**GET TICKETS NOW!**

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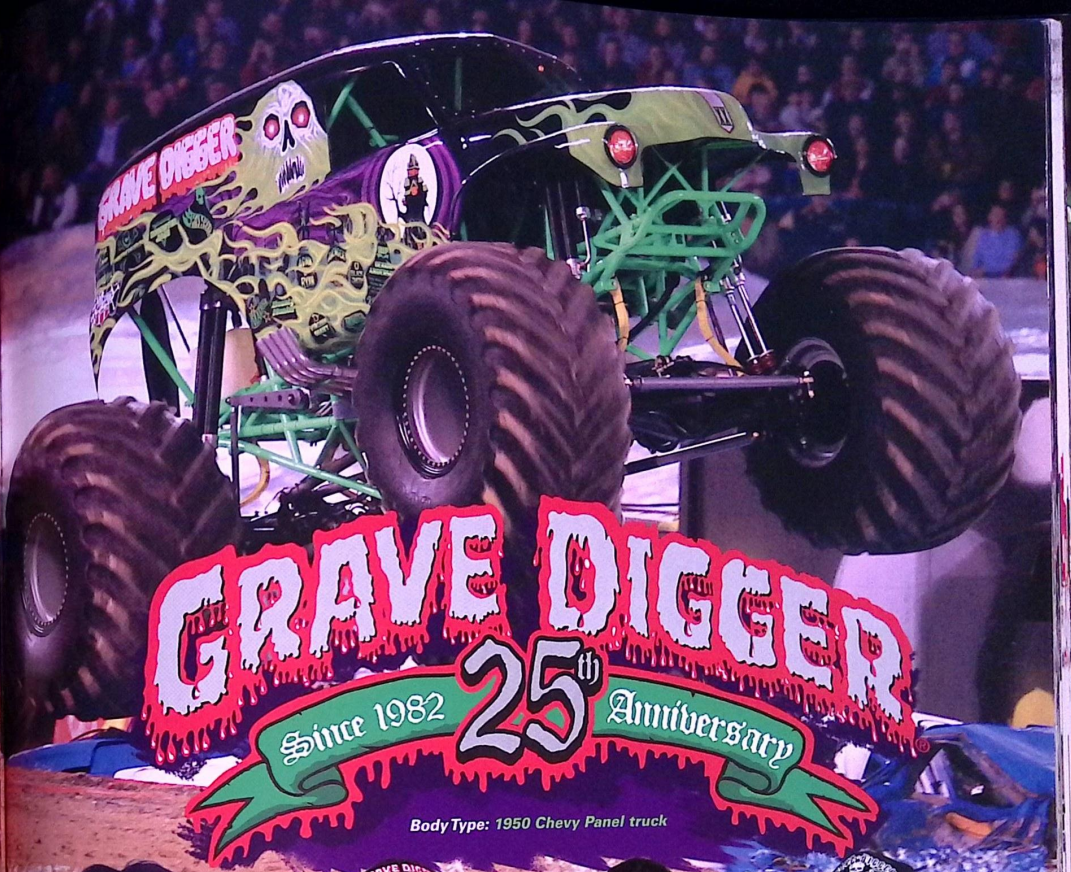
**DENNIS ANDERSON**
Hometown: Kill Devil Hills, NC

**RANDY BROWN**
Hometown: Camden, NC

**PABLO HUFFAKER**
Hometown: Tomball, TX






# GRAVE DIGGER

Since 1982 25th Anniversary

Body Type: 1950 Chevy Panel truck

**CHARLIE PAUKEN**
Hometown: Maumee, OH

**GARY PORTER**
Hometown: Wadesboro, NC

**ROD SCHMIDT**
Hometown: Charles City, IA

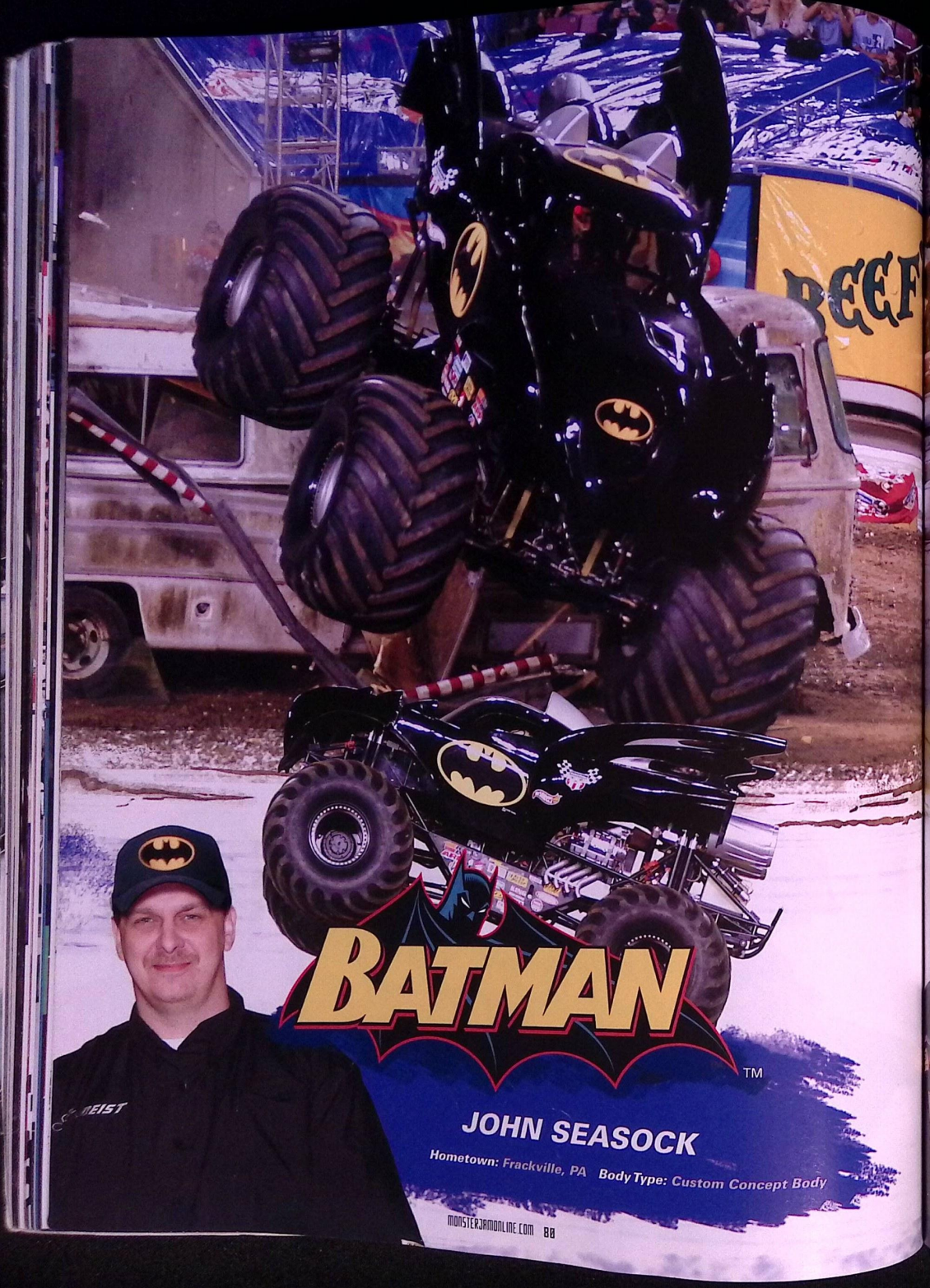
**CHAD TINGLER**
Hometown: Stuarts Draft, VA

TOM MEENTS
6 TIME WORLD CHAMPION
MAXIMUM DESTRUCTION
MONSTER JAM
World Finals
Freestyle Champion

TOM MEENTS
6 TIME WORLD CHAMPION
MAXIMUM DESTRUCTION
MAXIMUM DESTRUCTION
NEIL ELLIOT TOM MEENTS
Hometown: Paxton, IL Body Type: Futuristic SUV
DEIST

U.S. AIR FORCE
AFTERBURNER
U.S. AIR FORCE
AFTERBURNER
DAMON BRADSHAW
Hometown: Nampa, ID Body Type: 2006 GMC Raptor

AVENGER™
JIM KOEHLER
Hometown: Columbus, MI Body Type: 1957 Chevy
AVENGER


BATMAN
TM
JOHN SEASOCK
Hometown: Frackville, PA Body Type: Custom Concept Body

BLACKSMITH
RYAN HUFFAKER AARON BASL
Hometowns: College Station, TX and Aumsville, OR
Body Type: 1941 Willys

# BLUE THUNDER

**TONY FARRELL NORM MILLER**

**Hometowns:** North Vernon, IN and Warren, OR
**Body Type:** 2007 Ford F-250 Superduty

# BOUNTY HUNTER

**JIM CRETEN**

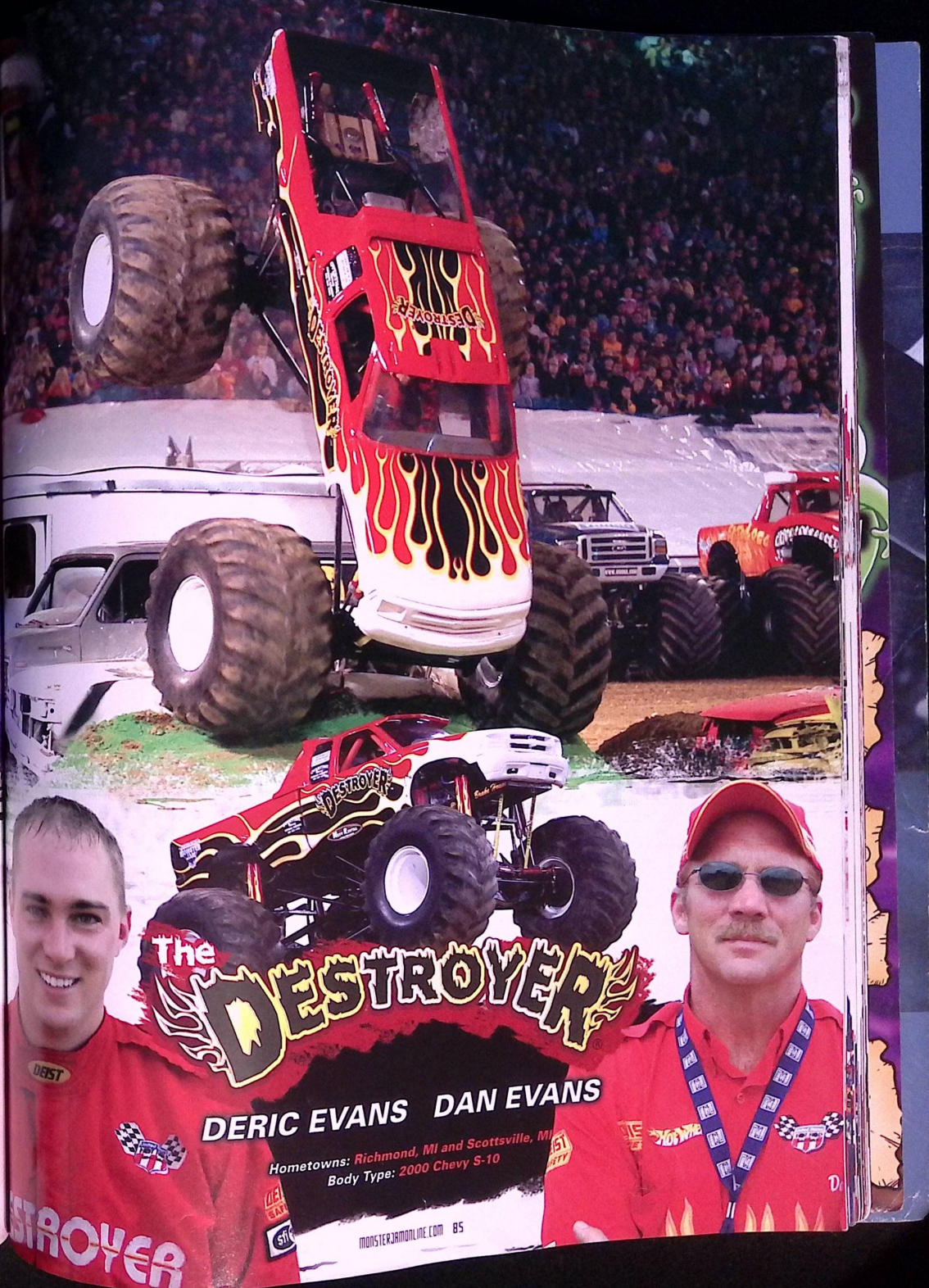
**Hometown:** Tonganoxie, KS **Body Type:** 2003 Ford Expedition

# BRUTUS

## CHRIS BERGERON

Hometown: Columbus, MI  Body Type: Custom Concept Body

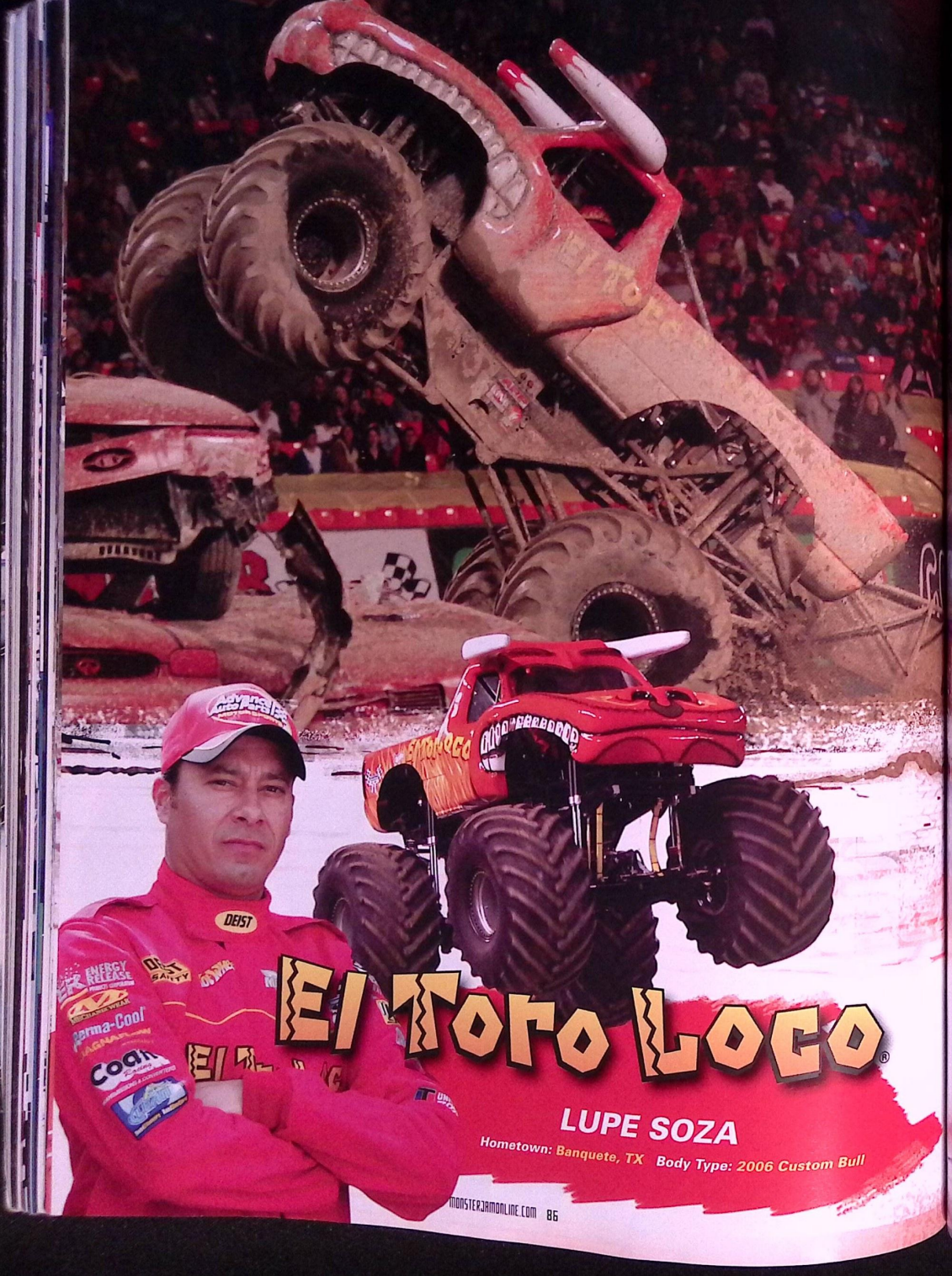





# The DESTROYER

## DERIC EVANS  DAN EVANS

Hometowns: Richmond, MI and Scottsville, MI
Body Type: 2000 Chevy S-10




# El Toro Loco®

## LUPE SOZA

**Hometown:** Banquete, TX **Body Type:** 2006 Custom Bull

## GEORGE BALHAN

**Hometown:** Minooka, IL **Body Type:** 2006 Escalade

Hot Wheels
BEAT THAT!

## CHUCK WERNER

**Hometown:** Paxton, IL **Body Type:** 2005 Ford Superduty

IRON OUTLAW

## LINSEY WEENK

**Hometown:** Tonganoxie, KS **Body Type:** 2003 Ford Expedition

# KING KRUNCH®

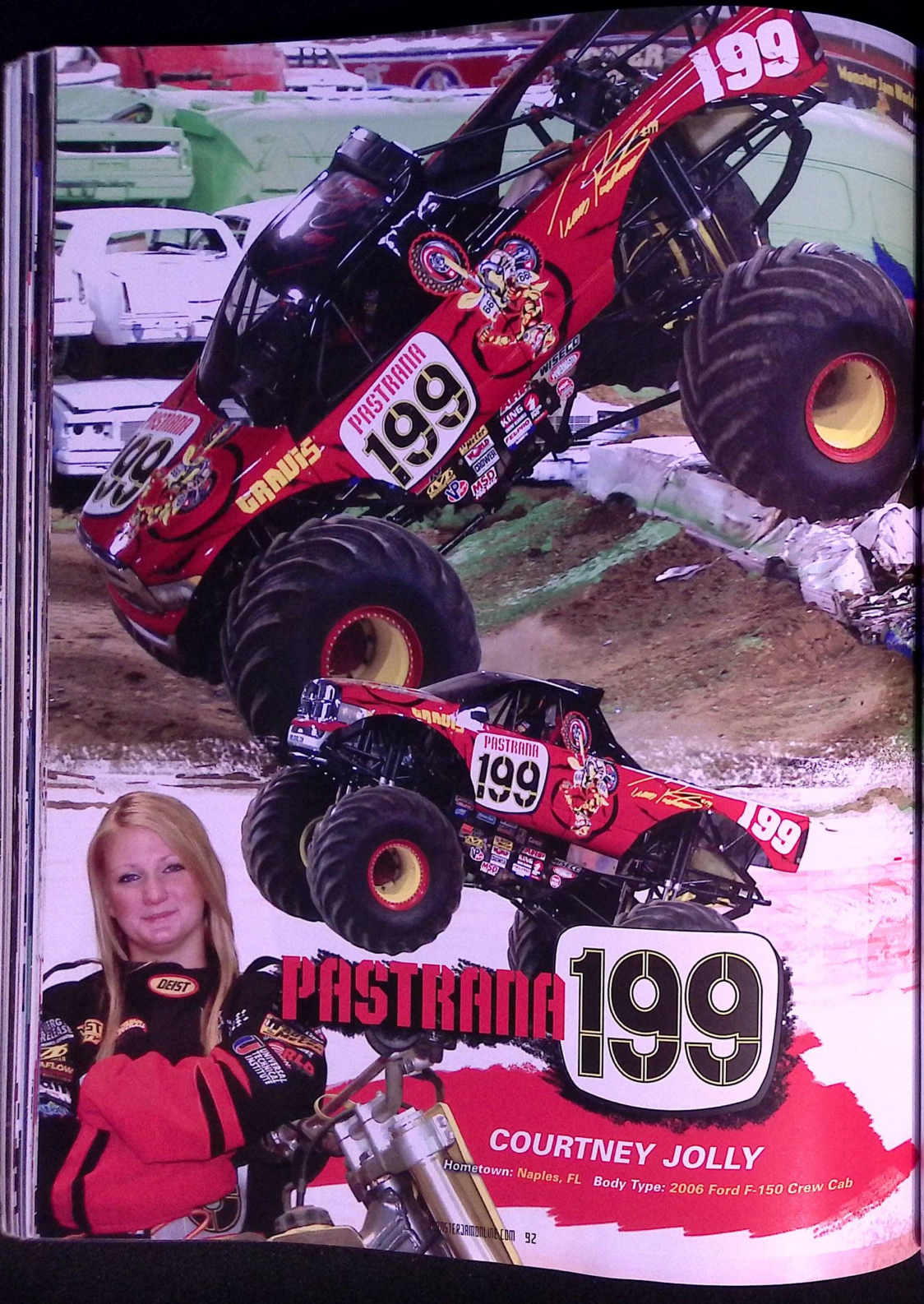
## DAVID SMITH

**Hometown:** Spring, TX **Body Type:** 2003 Chevy Silverado

# MONSTER MUTT®

## MIKE WINE CANDICE JOLLY

**Hometowns:** Hamilton, OH and Naples, FL
**Body Type:** 1950 Mercury Mutt


199
PASTRANA
199
GRAVES
PASTRANA 199
COURTNEY JOLLY
Hometown: Naples, FL Body Type: 2006 Ford F-150 Crew Cab

PREDATOR
PREDATOR
PREDATOR
ALLEN PEZO
Hometown: Brentwood, TN Body Type: 2002 Chevy Concept Body

# SAFE AUTO MINIMIZER

## MARK MCDONALD

**Hometown:** Vinita, OK **Body Type:** 2006 Ford F-150

# SUPERMAN™

## CHAD FORTUNE

**Hometown:** Valparaiso, IN **Body Type:** 2007 Ford F-150

SUZUKI®

## BOBBY PARR

Hometown: Mt. Pleasant, TX Body Type: 2006 Ford F-150

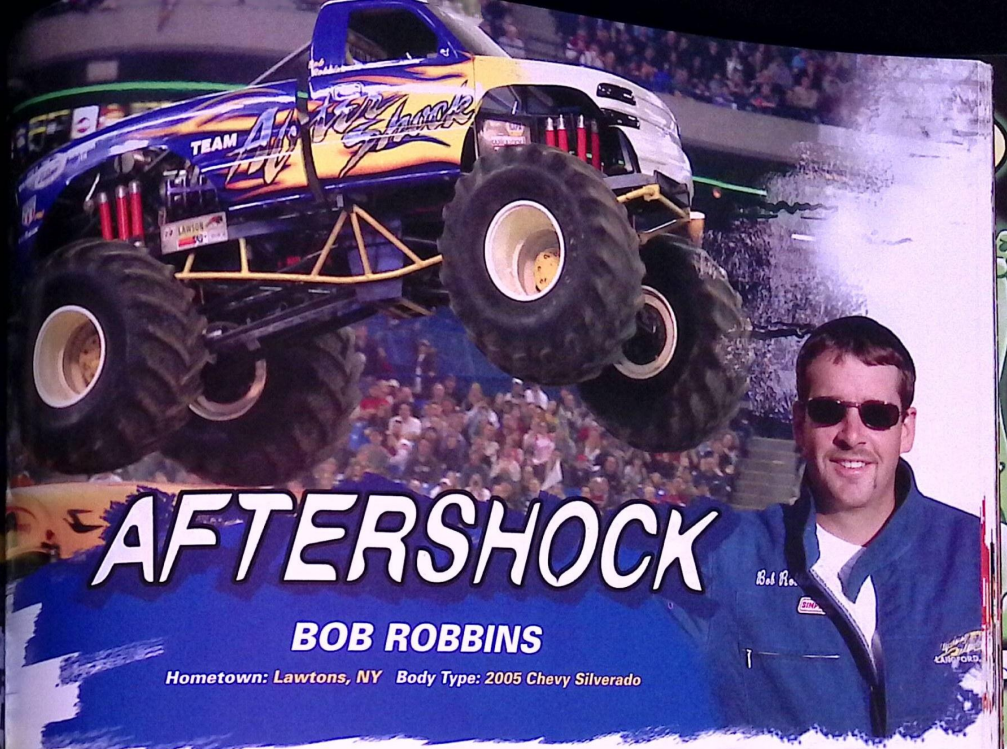
taz®

## ADAM ANDERSON

Hometown: Poplar Branch, NC Body Type: Tasmanian Devil

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA
TURTLES
Body Type: Custom Concept Body




AFTERSHOCK
BOB ROBBINS
Hometown: Lawtons, NY Body Type: 2005 Chevy Silverado

AMERICAN GUARDIAN
RICK RAAB
Hometown: Perkasie, PA Body Type: 2007 Chevy Avalanche

# ANGER MANAGEMENT

## SCOTT PIORIER

**Hometown:** North Sutton, NH **Body Type:** 2001 Ford F-150

# ARACHNAPHOBIA

## SCOTT ANDERSON

**Hometown:** Rigby, ID **Body Type:** 2001 Chevy S-10 Extended Cab

# ANNIHILATOR

## GREG ADAMS

**Hometown:** Lula, GA **Body Type:** 2004 F-150 Ford Superduty

# BACKDRAFT™

## JOHN KILLINGER

**Hometown:** Bangor, ME **Body Type:** 2003 Dodge

# BAD NEWS

## BRUCE HANEY

Hometown: Bronson, FL  Body Type: 2002 Chevy

# BIG CRUNCH

## TOM SCHMIDT

Hometown: Tignall, GA  Body Type: Ford Superduty

# BLACK STALLION

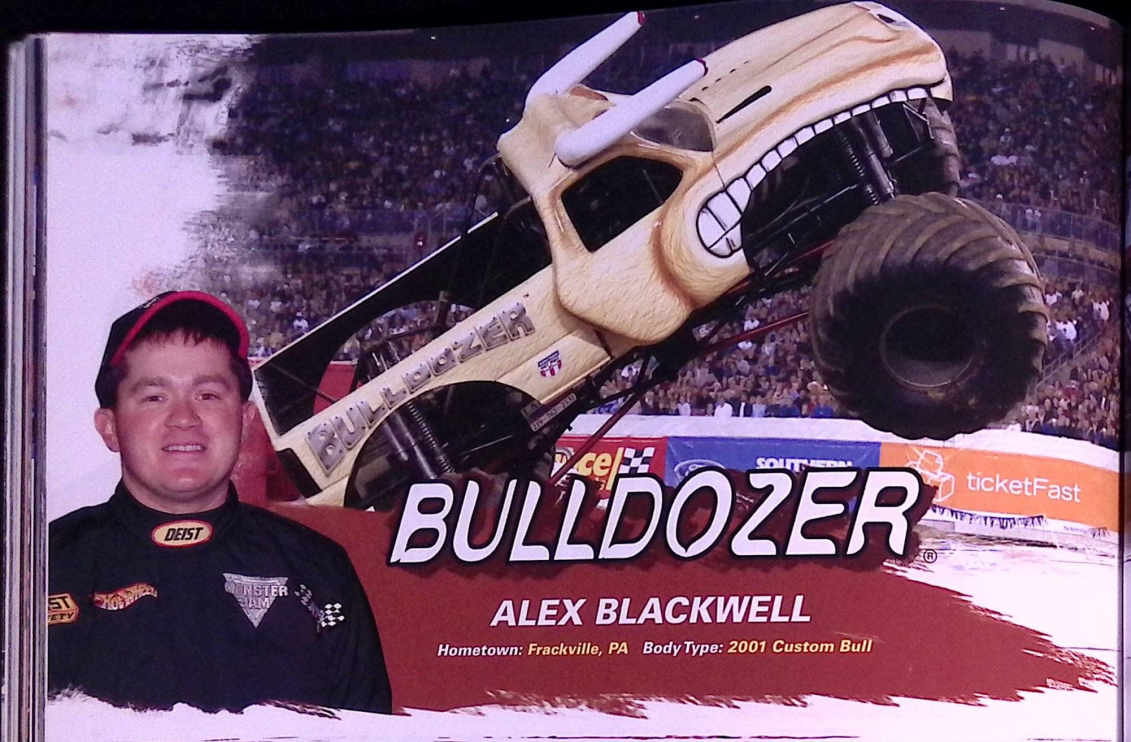
## MIKE VATERS

Hometown: Hagerstown, MD  Body Type: 2007 Ford F-150

# THE BROKER

## JIM LEAHY

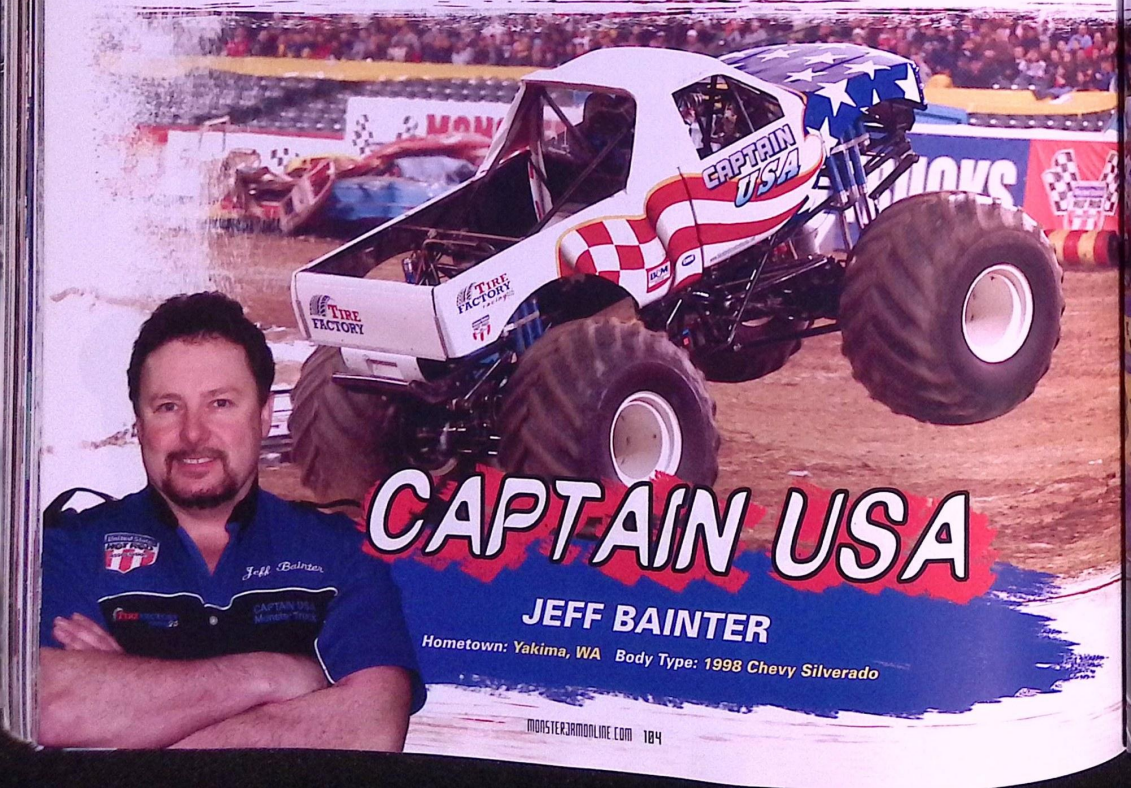
Hometown: Manahawkin, NJ  Body Type: 2003 Ford F-150 Extended Cab




# BULLDOZER

## ALEX BLACKWELL

Hometown: Frackville, PA  Body Type: 2001 Custom Bull




# CAPTAIN USA

## JEFF BAINTER

Hometown: Yakima, WA  Body Type: 1998 Chevy Silverado

# CLYDESDALE

## BENNETT CLARK

Hometown: Cedartown, GA  Body Type: 2002 Chevy

# COWBOY

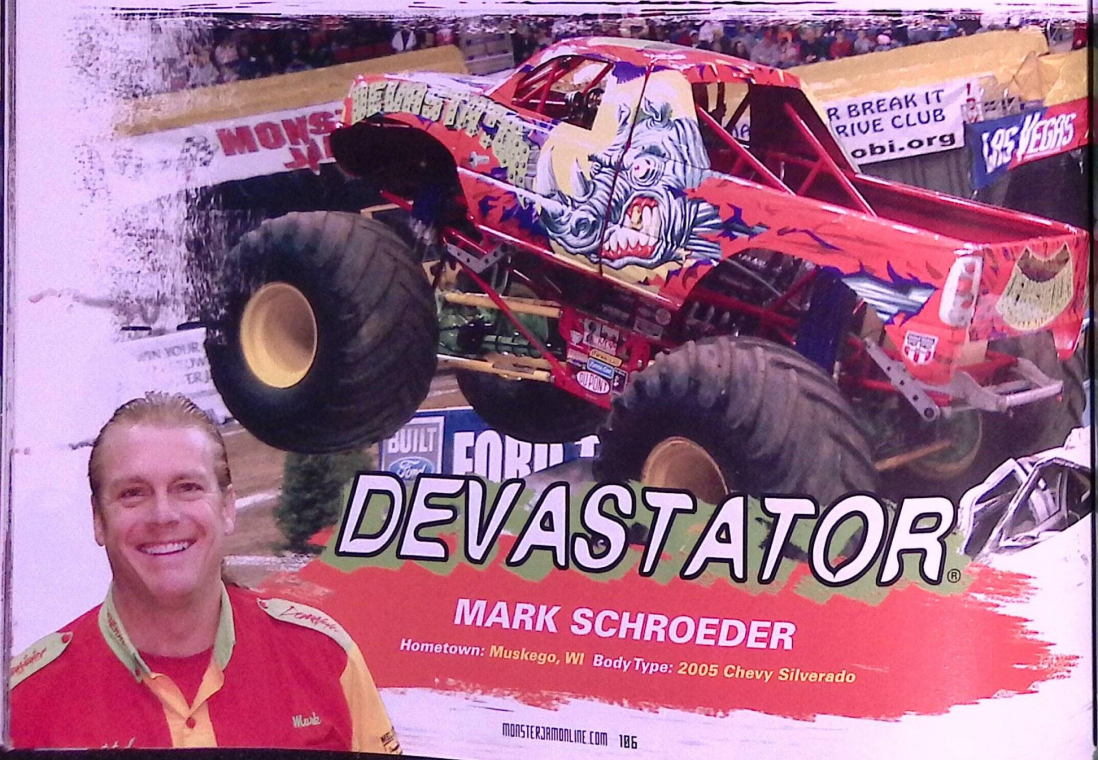
## GLEN LOGAN JR  STEVE REYNOLDS

Hometowns: Massapequa, NY and Paxton, IL  Body Type: 2002 Chevy

# CYBORG®

## JACK KOBERNA

**Hometown:** Edgewood, NM **Body Type:** 2001 Ford F-150




# DEVASTATOR®

## MARK SCHROEDER

**Hometown:** Muskego, WI **Body Type:** 2005 Chevy Silverado

# EL MATADOR

## DARON BASL

**Hometown:** Spring, TX **Body Type:** 2003 Chevy Silverado

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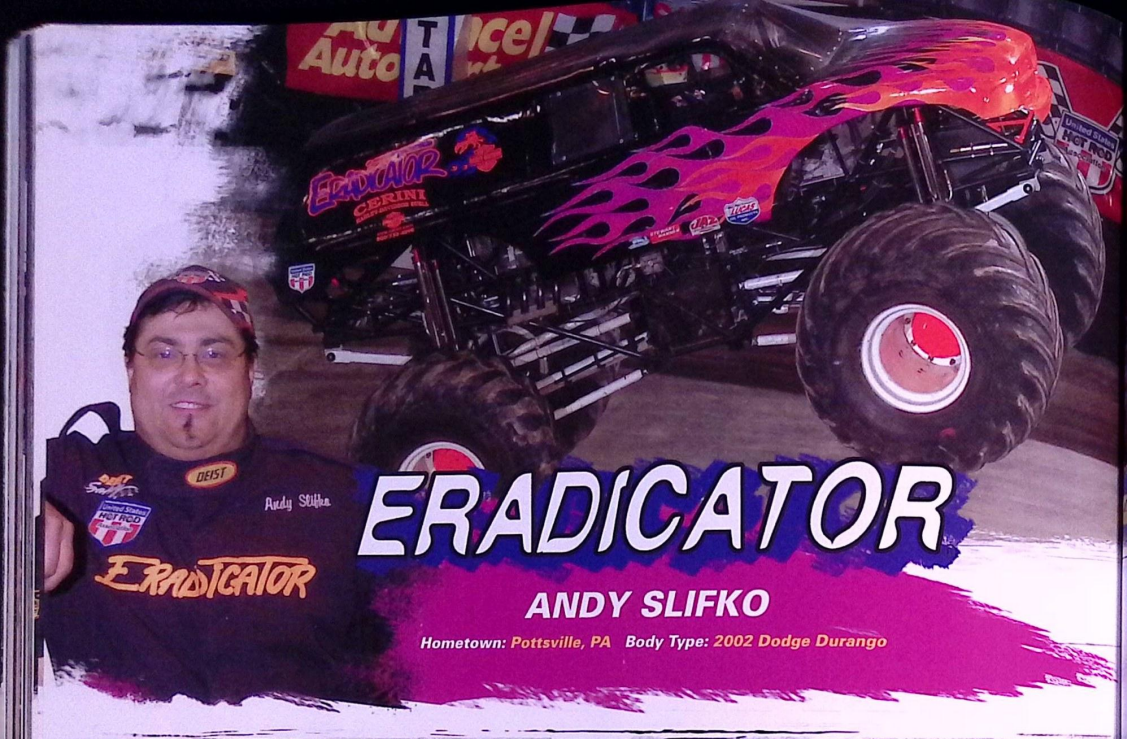
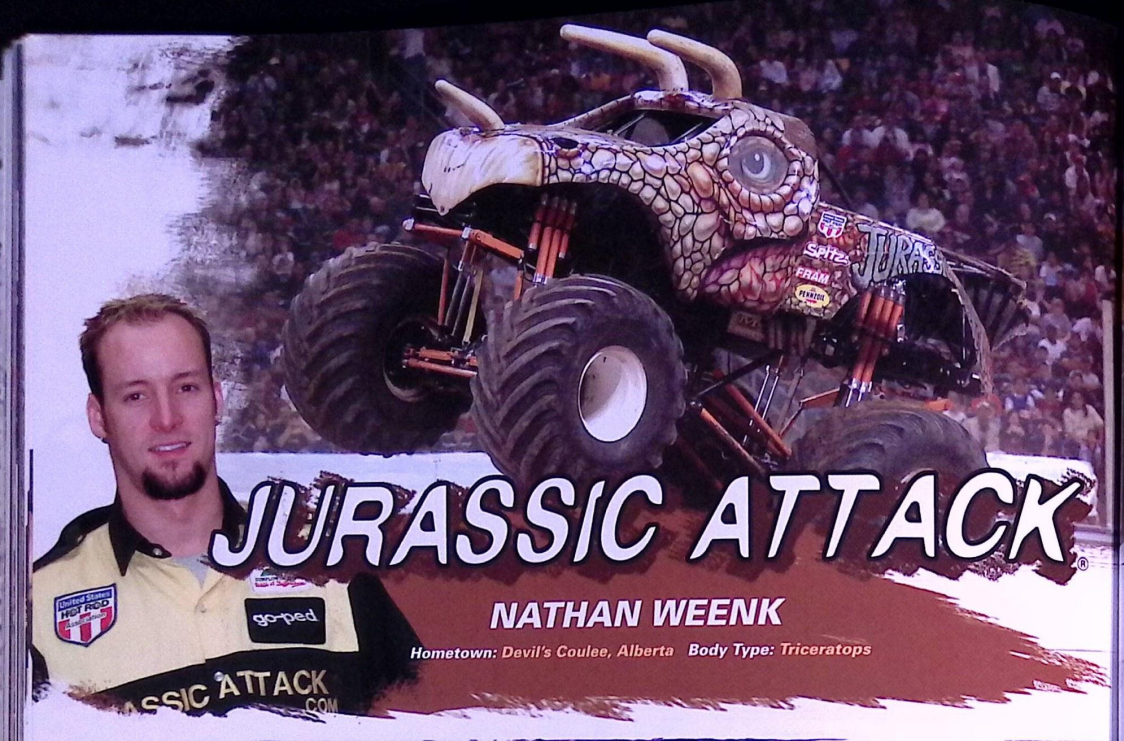

ERADICATOR
ANDY SLIFKO
Hometown: Pottsville, PA Body Type: 2002 Dodge Durango

GUNSLINGER
SCOTT HARTSOCK
Hometown: Bushnell, FL Body Type: 2002 Ford F-150

FULL BOAR™
ED ECKERT
Hometown: Newago, MI Body Type: 2005 Ford Superduty

IRON WARRIOR
TREY MEYERS
Hometown: Brunswick, MD Body Type: 2001 Ford Ranger



# JURASSIC ATTACK®

## NATHAN WEENK

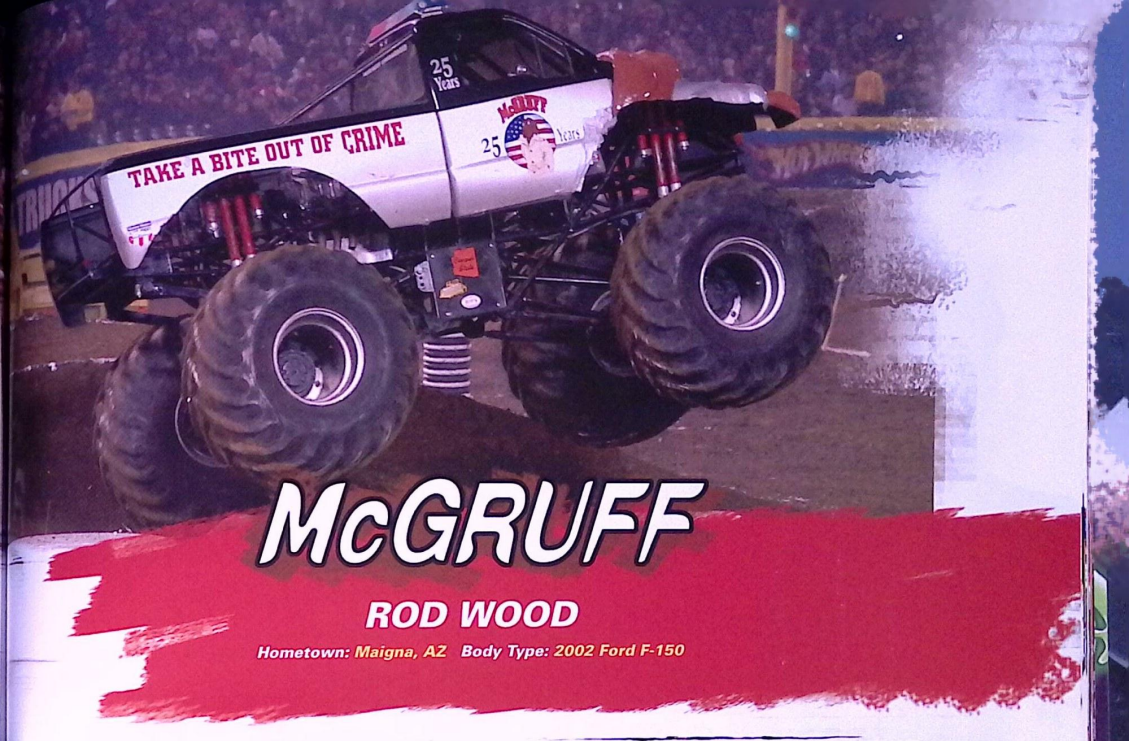
**Hometown:** Devil's Coulee, Alberta **Body Type:** Triceratops

# MANIAC

## DON FRANKISH

**Hometown:** Lethbridge, Alberta **Body Type:** 2004 Ford Superduty





# McGRUFF

## ROD WOOD

**Hometown:** Maigna, AZ **Body Type:** 2002 Ford F-150

# OBSESSION

## RICK SWANSON

**Hometown:** Menifee, CA **Body Type:** 2006 Ford F-350 Superduty

# PATRIOT

**DANNY RODONI**

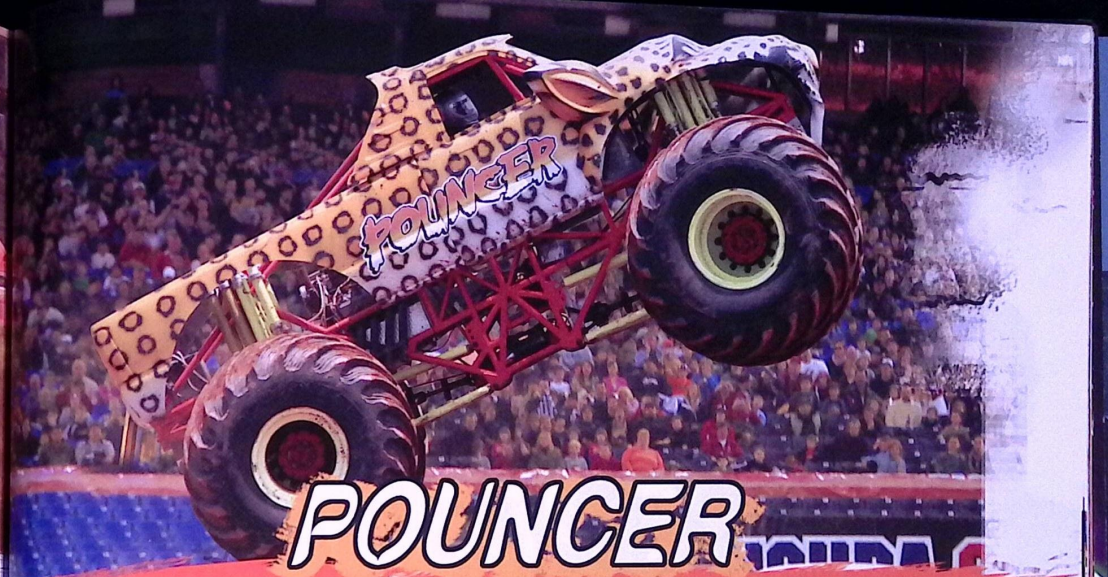
Hometown: Santa Cruz, CA  Body Type: 2002 Chevy 2500 HD

# PIT BULL

**CHARLES BENS**

Hometown: Albuquerque, NM  Body Type: 1999 Chevy



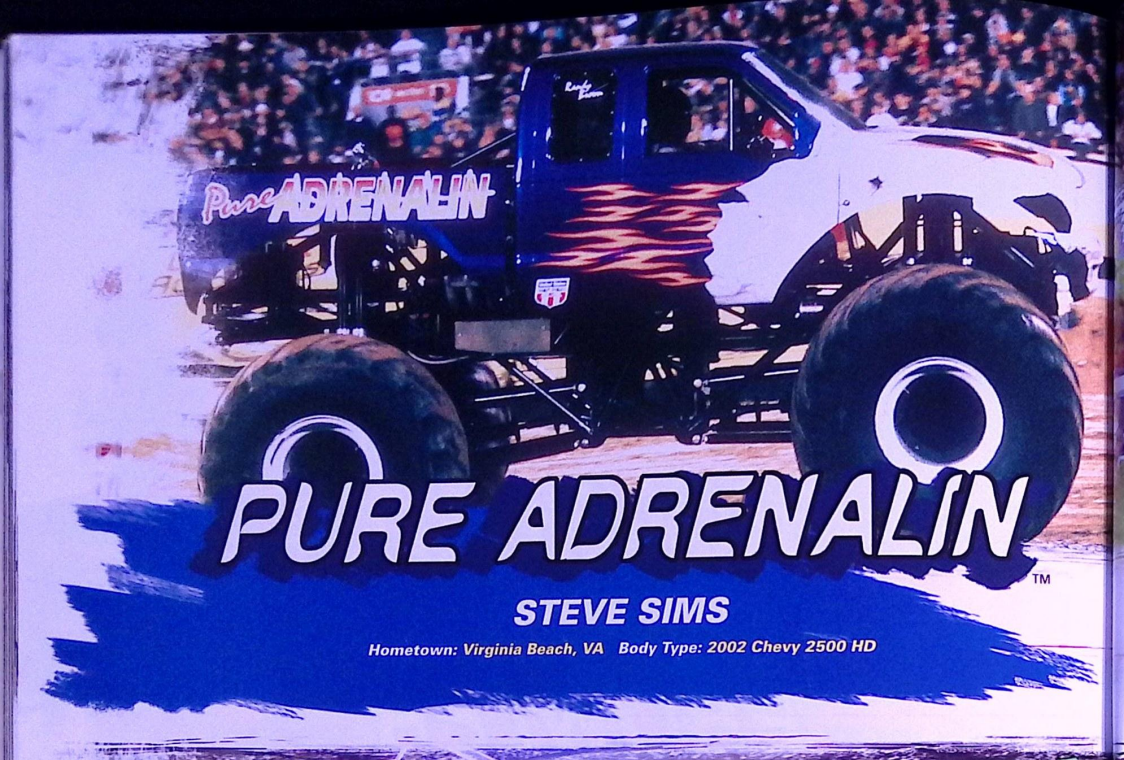



# POUNCER

**LENNY KUILDER  LARRY JARZEL  DALE MITCHEL**

Hometowns: Seven Hills, OH, Millington, MI, and Somerville, TN  Body Types: 2002 Chevy Concept body

# PROWLER®




# PURE ADRENALIN™

## STEVE SIMS

Hometown: Virginia Beach, VA  Body Type: 2002 Chevy 2500 HD

# REPTOID®

## JIM JACK

Hometown: Milton, FL  Body Type: 1996 Chevy

# RAP ATTACK

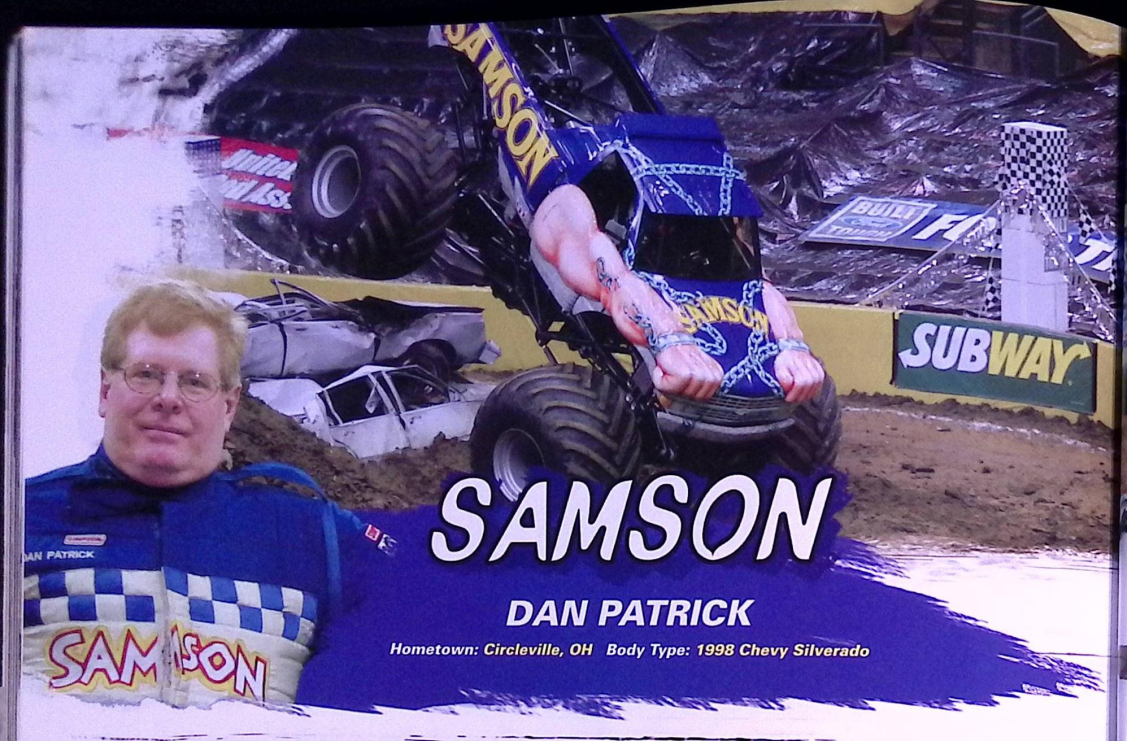
## DAVE RAPPACH

Hometown: Vienna, OH  Body Type: 2001 GMC Sierra

# ROLLING THUNDER

## JIM BENDZICK

Hometown: Faribault, MN  Body Type: 2006 Chevy Silverado




# SAMSON

## DAN PATRICK

Hometown: Circleville, OH  Body Type: 1998 Chevy Silverado

# SCARLET BANDIT™

## DAWN CRETEN

Hometown: Tonganoxie, KS  Body Type: 2003 Ford Expedition

# SCREAMIN`DEMON™

## JAY SNYDER

Hometown: Bakersfield, CA  Body Type: 2005 Ford Superduty

# SHATTERED

## MATT POWERS

Hometown: Rigby, ID  Body Type: Jeep Scrambler

# SHOCKER

**PAT GERBER**

*Hometown: Bethesda, MD  Body Type: Ford*

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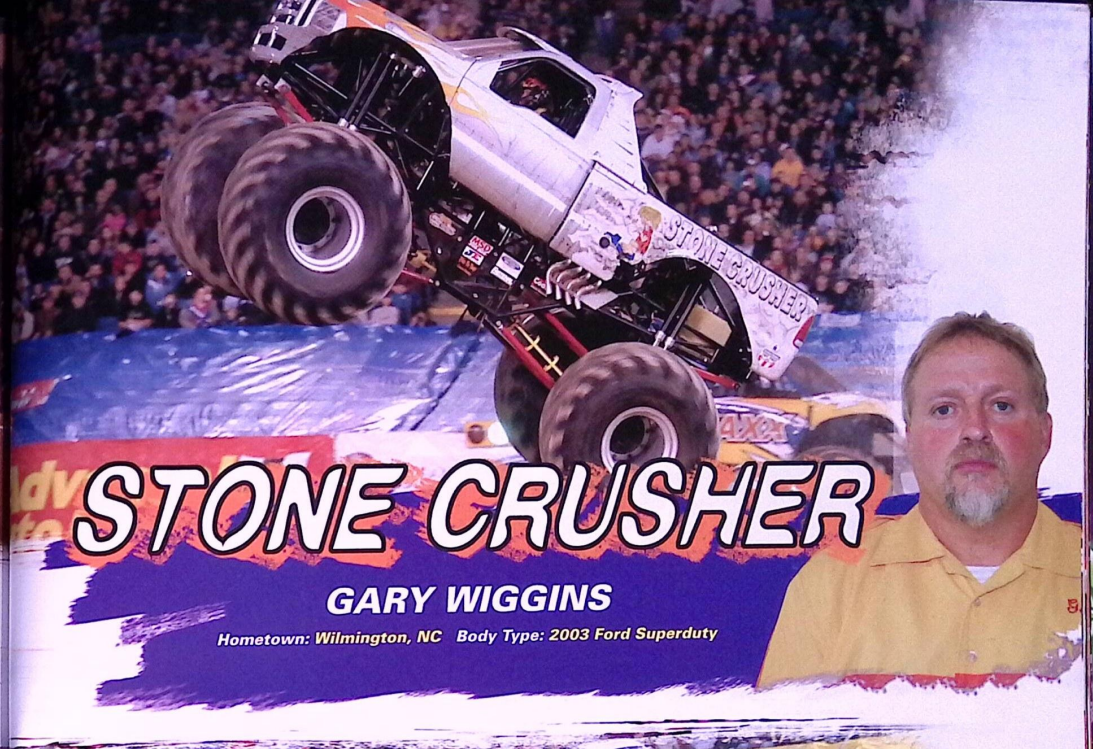



# STONE CRUSHER

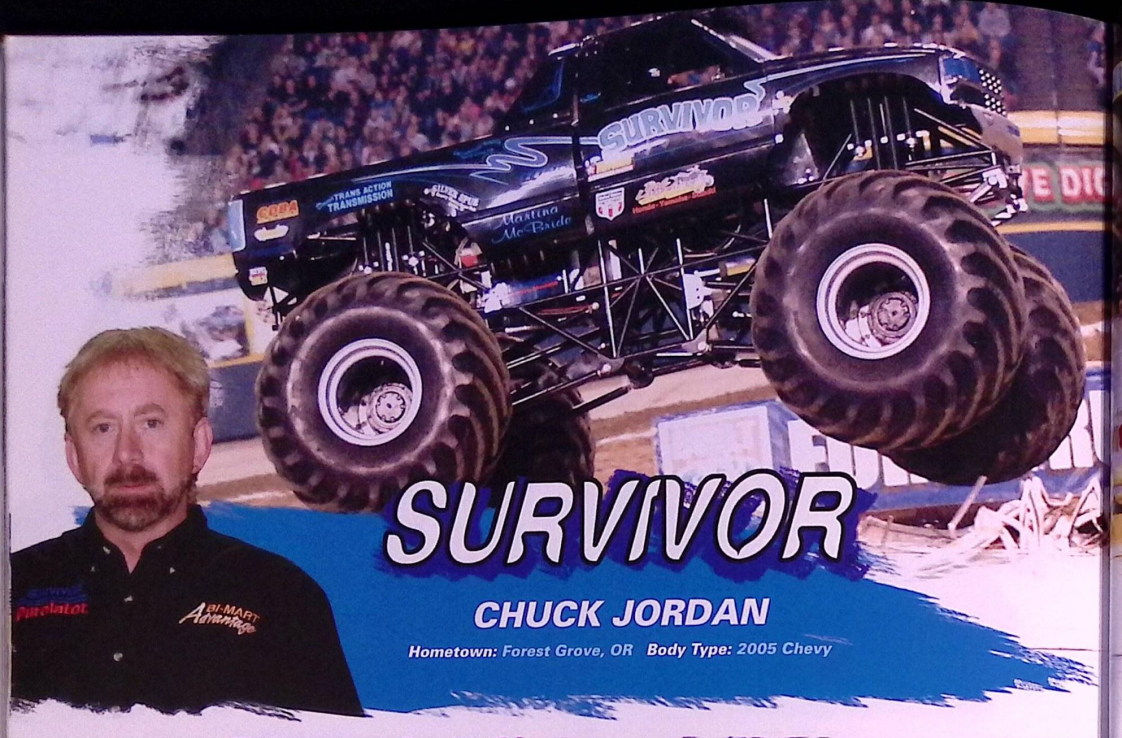
**GARY WIGGINS**

*Hometown: Wilmington, NC  Body Type: 2003 Ford Superduty*

# SUDDEN IMPACT

**CARL VAN HORN**

*Hometown: Jefferson, LA  Body Type: 2004 Ford Ranger*




# SURVIVOR

## CHUCK JORDAN

**Hometown:** Forest Grove, OR **Body Type:** 2005 Chevy

# THRASHER®

## PAT SUMMA

**Hometown:** Danbury, CT **Body Type:** 1997 Ford F-250

# TROPICAL THUNDER

## PHIL FOSTER

**Hometown:** Paxton, IL **Body Type:** 2002 GMC

# VIRGINIA GIANT

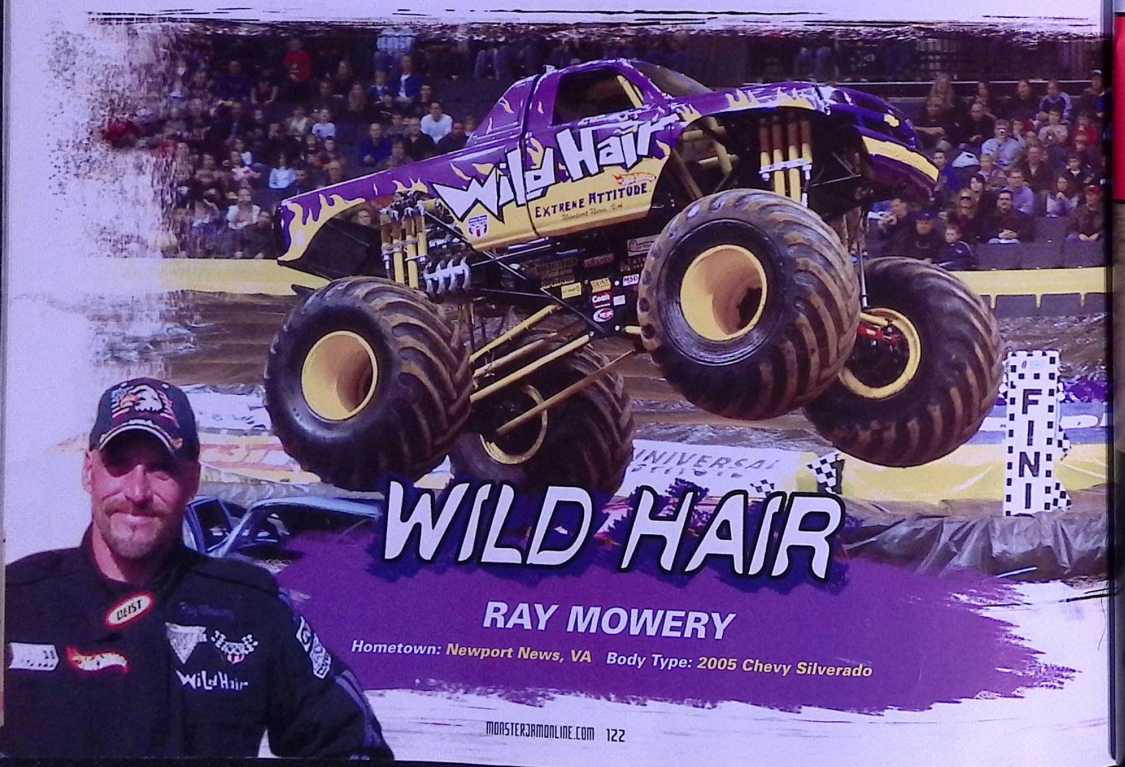
## DIEHL WILSON

**Hometown:** Winchester, VA **Body Type:** 2006 Ford F-150

# WAR WIZARD

## RANDY MOORE

Hometown: Bristol, TN  Body Type: 1941 Willy's Coupe

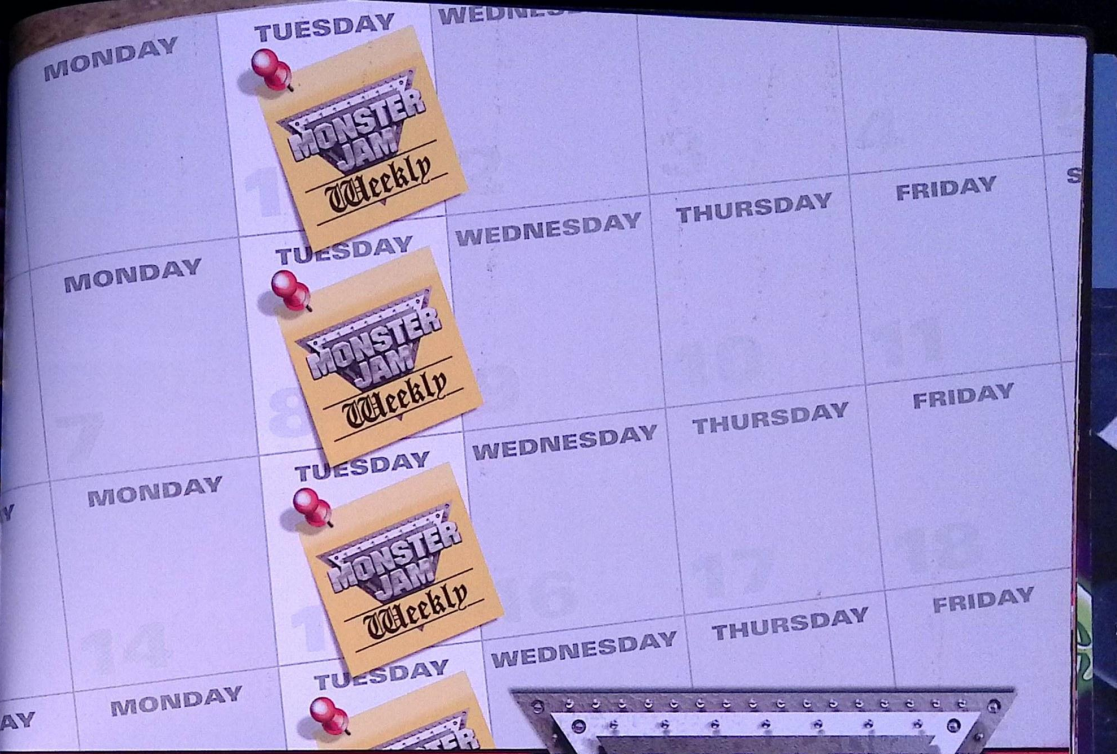


# WILD HAIR

## RAY MOWERY

Hometown: Newport News, VA  Body Type: 2005 Chevy Silverado

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# PRO TRUCKS

*These trucks and SUVs are restricted to mere 366 cubic inch engines, but that does not stop them from achieving speeds of 60 mph and completing a hairpin turn in under 200 feet. With these conditions come danger, which is why the USHRA holds these drivers and crews to a strict standard of safety, and carefully inspects each vehicle before every race. The top ten competitors are invited to compete at each event, with the fastest eight Pro Trucks making the finals. Because the level of competition is so high, often the difference between number one and going home before the race even starts is only a few tenths of a second. Listed and pictured here are the top eight performers in a group of superstars.*

**Division I** *(Pictured on left page)*
1. **Lionel Easler**, Rancho, 1773 points
2. **Jason Makuch**, Dynomax, 1665
3. **Ross Rugg**, Bad Investment, 1080
4. **Roger Cardot**, Bubba, 936

**Division II**
1. **Tom Jones**, Troublemaker, 2130
2. **Randy Avery**, 1733
3. **Brian Spady**, Flyin' Brian, 1598
4. **Gary Woodruff**, Mo Money, 1141

Superman Seatgrab Indian Air

Kiss of Death (K.O.D.)

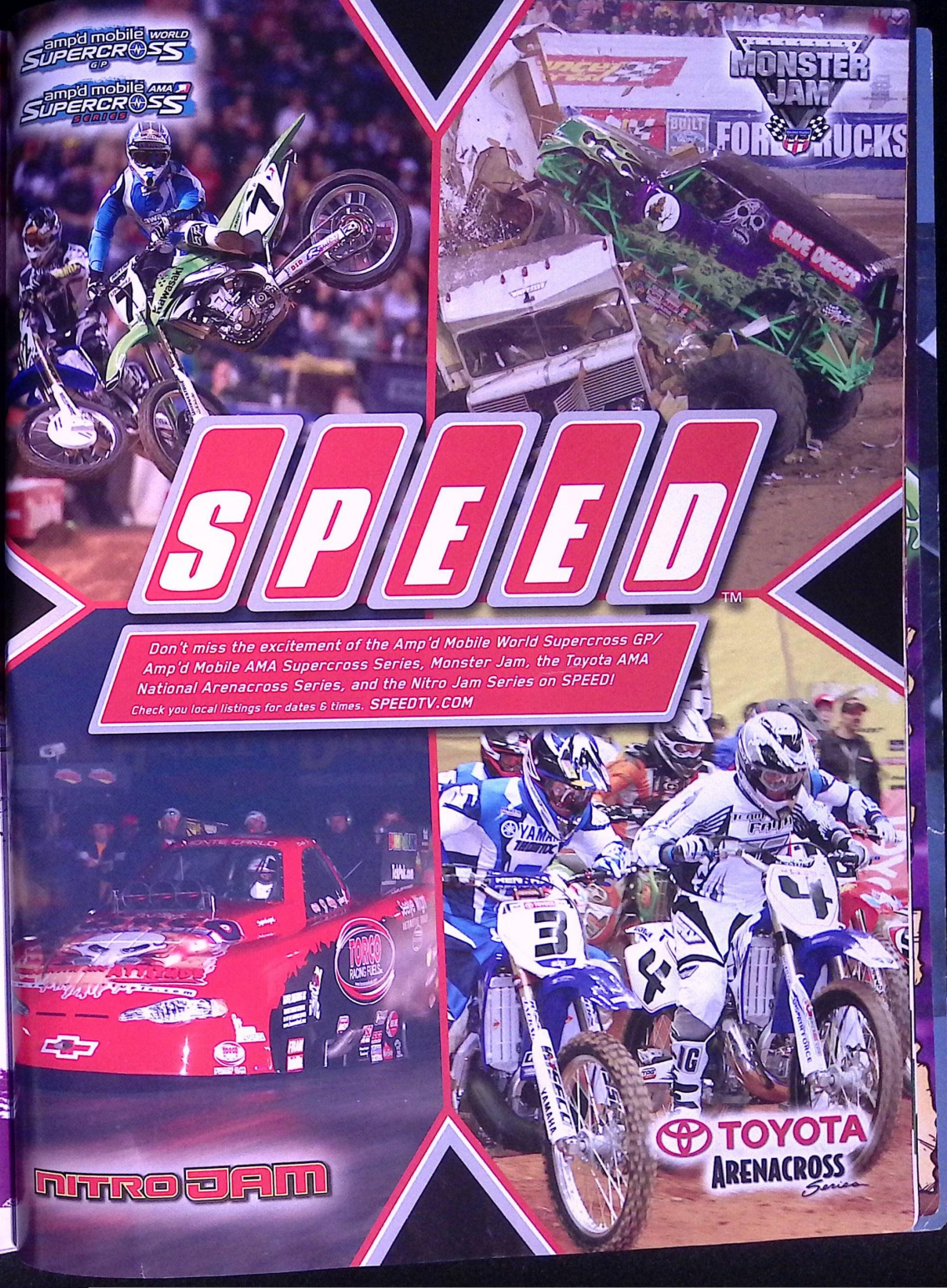
Seatgrab

Cordova

# FREESTYLE MOTOCROSS

*Freestyle Motocross has become the premier extreme sport on the planet. With a trick list that includes Heart Attacks, the Kiss of Death, Super Nacs and Back-flips, FMX is a feature not to be missed at Monster Jam events. These daredevils feed off your enthusiasm, so get out of your seats and let them hear you. If you are a jumper and think you have what it takes, contact getextreme@livenation.com.*

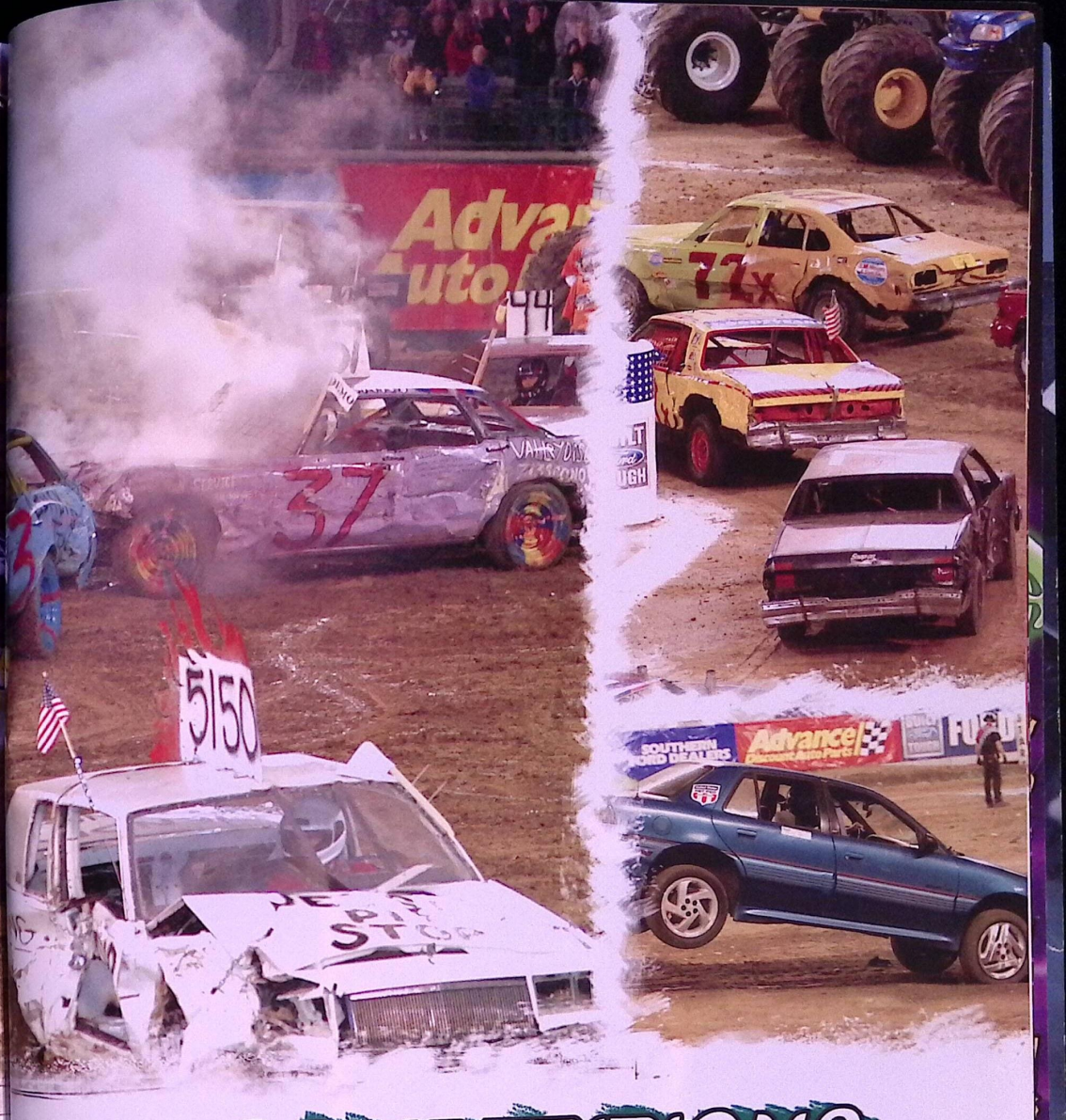


# QUAD WARS

**A no-holds-barred ATV team competition that puts man & machine together as one, your home-town team battling against a rival team. Cheer for your favorite rider or entire team, but hang on, it's going to be a bumpy ride! If you think you have what it takes to represent for your city, e-mail getextreme@livenation.com.**





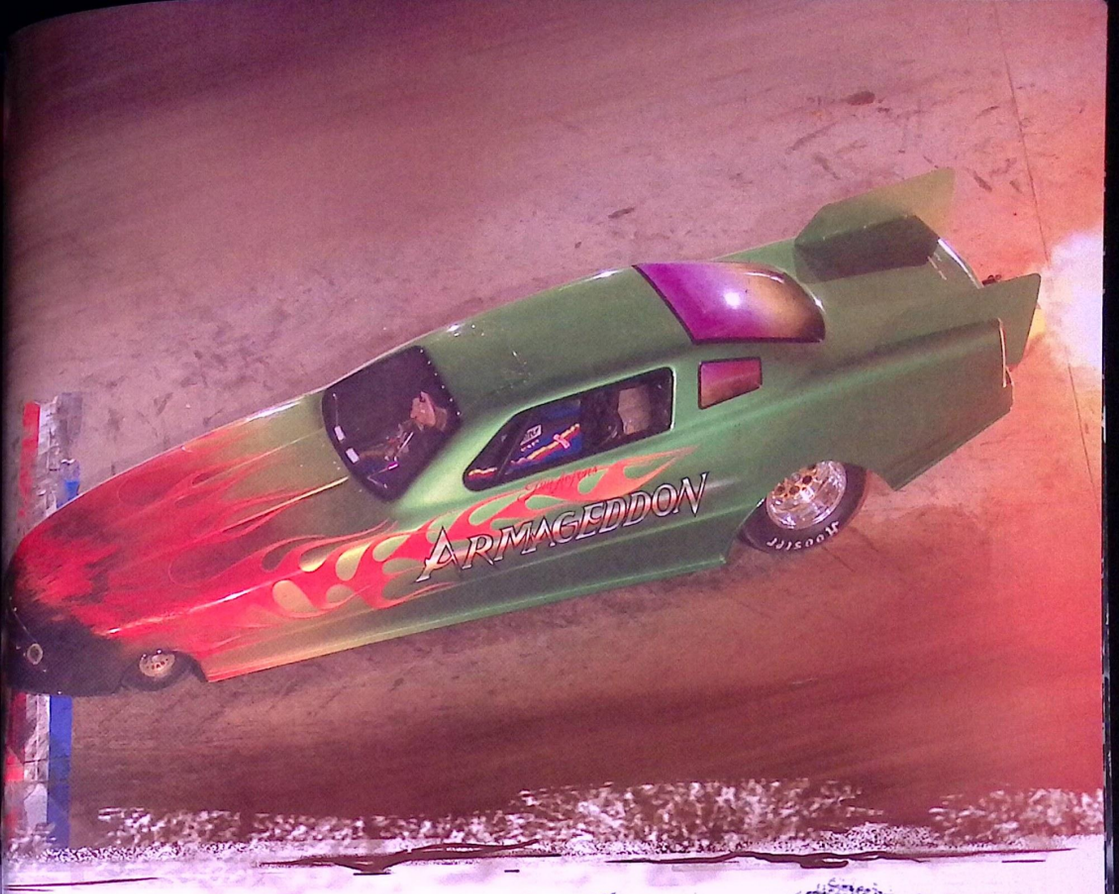

# COMPETITIONS

*(Clockwise from Top)* ***Demolition Derby; Autocross; Street Warriors***

# THRILLS

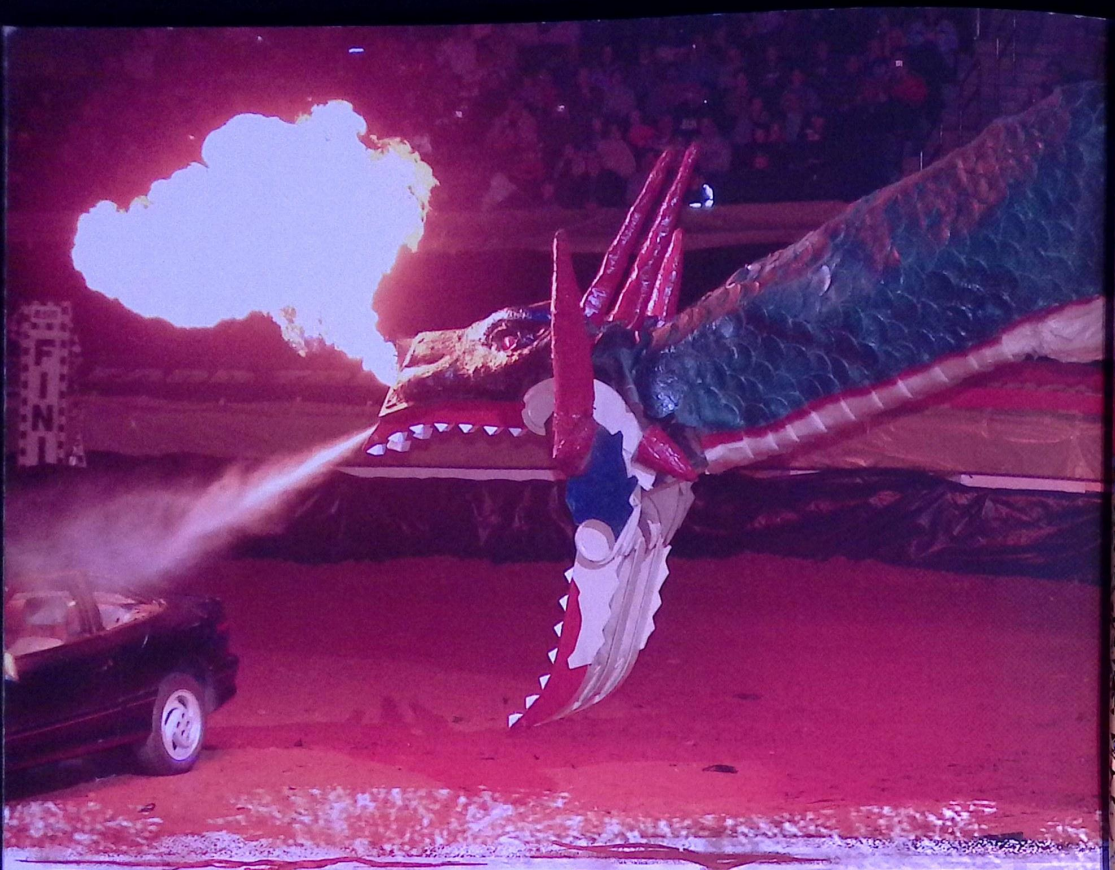
(Counter-clockwise from Top) **Quad backflip; Jet Quad; Hager long jump; Bobby Cox**





# EXHIBITIONS

(Counter-clockwise from Top) **Armageddon; Tractor Races; XSBA; Freestyle BMX**



# TRANSFORMERS

(Counter-clockwise from Top) **Draco the Dragonator; Galactron vs. Reptar; Megasaurus**



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## WE NEED TRACK CREW

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# GET INVOLVED

## WITH MONSTER JAM

# WORD SEARCH

OH NO! With all the freestyle carnage, the letters of the words have all mixed up. Help find the hidden words. Look closely because they run up and down, sideways, diagonally, and even backwards.

T N A E G N A I N F I M C E
E L T O R O L O C O U D D W
H C C H A D F O R T U N E A
S S A F V N B A T M A N N L
P H M R E X C I T E M E N T
E O I D D B U O N O N T I U
E W B O I O T G N I O E S O
D G N G G O I S H R I R A N
N U A E G N T C P E P C N O
T I I N E E A P F V M M D R
R R I R R M S A E I A I E I
H C I J N A M D E R H J R D
N F A A F I C I I D C E S G
E M E I L E E H W R E W O P
R M R Y O R W O E E T E N I

~~DRIVER~~
~~DIRT~~
~~CHAMPION~~
~~BIGAIR~~
~~REPTOID~~
~~BATMAN~~
~~MONSTERJAM~~
~~CARNAGE~~
~~SPEED~~
POWERWHEELIE
JIMCRETEN
IRONOUTLAW
~~CHADFORTUNE~~
MEANMACHINE
MUTT
DONUT
RACE
MREXCITEMENT
SHOW
~~ELTOROLOCO~~
FIRE
DENNISANDERSON
GRAVEDIGGER
GRIM
ENGINE
FAMILY
FUN

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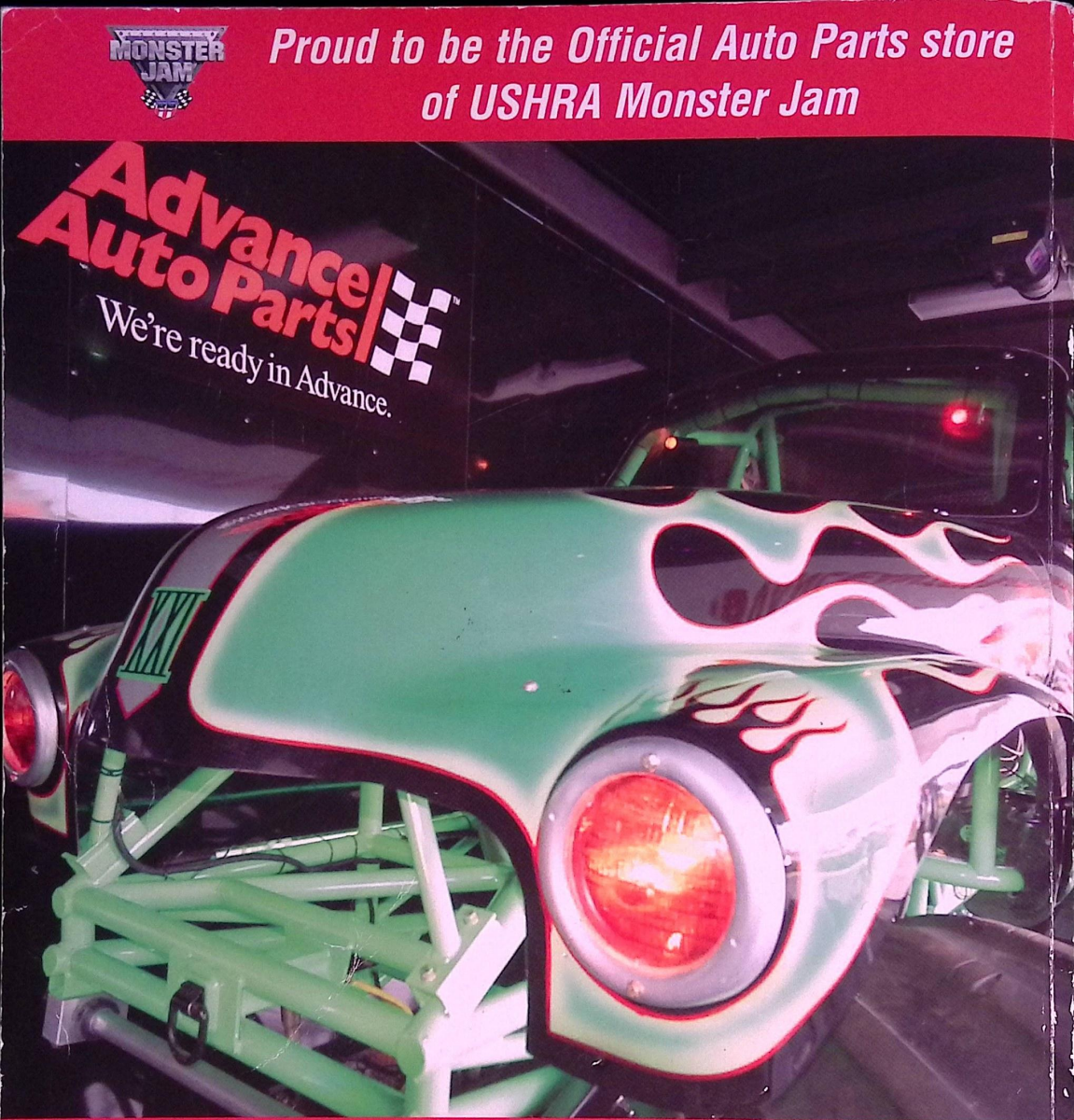
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